

HASKELL JOURNAL

of the International Haskell Family Association

Vol. XXXVI — No. 3

Fall 2020

Issue 112



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Alexander Cheves Haskell Family of South Carolina

Richard E. Haskell



The Alexander Cheves Haskell Family, Christmas 1901

L-R Front: Alexander Cheves b. 1871, Alice b. 1848, Alexander Cheves Haskell b. 1839, Louisa b. 1872
Middle Row: Suzanne b. 1886, Alice b. 1884, Frederika b. 1880, Marion b. 1876, Mary b. 1873
Back: Anthony Porter b. 1875, Charles Thomson b. 1878, Adam b. 1882

On April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee appointed 25-year-old **Colonel Alexander Cheves⁷ Haskell (Charles Thomson⁶, Elnathan⁵, Elnathan⁴, Joseph³, Mark², Roger¹)** to surrender the Confederate Cavalry at Appomattox to General Wesley Merritt, marking the end of the four most consequential years in Alexander's life, beginning when he and his brother, William, enlisted in the First Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers and were sent to Charleston, where they witnessed the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Alexander, who had been appointed 'Military Secretary' to Colonel Maxcy Gregg, was visited in March by

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Mary (Carter) Singleton and her daughter **Rebecca Coles Singleton**, called “Decca,” who was slightly older than Alexander, was vivacious and charming, and to whom Alexander had been attracted since their days at South Carolina College.



Pvt. Alexander Cheves
Haskell - 1861

By the end of April, Alexander was with Colonel Gregg in Virginia. In July, Mrs. Singleton and Decca came to Virginia and stopped in Richmond, where Alexander proposed to Decca of July 9th. On that day, he wrote to his father Charles Thomson Haskell and his mother Sophia (Cheves) Haskell,

“I have done something which though of deepest interest to me is yet of great importance to all who love me. I am engaged to be married and intend, if I get through the wars, to bring you as noble a daughter as your hearts can desire. Decca Singleton has rewarded my three years of faithful affection and has promised to be my wife. She says that the war convinced her that I was not alone in my anxieties and doubts during last winter’s campaign, and then it was that my fortune came into the ascendant.”

Alexander’s father and mother, as well as his brother, William, were present when he married Decca in Charlottesville, VA on September 10, 1861. Decca was able to accompany Alexander when his Regiment moved to Suffolk, Virginia five days later. They were together for three months until Gregg was promoted to Brigadier General and ordered to South Carolina in December to organize a Brigade. Alexander was promoted to Captain and became General Gregg’s Chief of Staff. Decca was pregnant and returned to Abbeville, South Carolina, staying with Alexander’s parents until Spring, when she moved in with her mother in Columbia. There, on June 20, 1862, **Rebecca Singleton “Decca II” Haskell** was born, and six days later, her mother Decca died.

On December 13, 1862, nearly six months after his wife’s death, Alexander was struck in his right shoulder during the battle at Fredericksburg, requiring him to leave the field. A couple of hours later, General Gregg was mortally wounded and brought to Alexander’s side. As he lay dying, the general gave Alexander his dress sword, which became Alexander’s most treasured possession and has been passed down to generations of his descendants. Alexander accompanied General Gregg’s body to Columbia for burial in Elmwood Cemetery. He stayed with Mrs. Singleton and his baby daughter, recovering from his shoulder wound, before returning to Virginia in mid-February.

On April 2, 1863, Alexander wrote a long letter to his mother from Camp Gregg, a letter which Douglas Southall Freeman, author of *The South to Posterity* (1939) called “the noblest single letter of the war that ever I have seen.” In the last paragraph of that letter, Alexander wrote,

“If I fall upon any distant battlefield, if you never hear an-

other word from my lips, if no friend is near me, if all is violent and painful, if all the horrors of a bloody death are marked upon my body, be assured that I go with my eyes upon the gates of Heaven, my heart uplifted in prayer. I lie down to rest until the gates of Heaven are opened, and all we love are once more joined together.”

You can read the entire letter [here](#).

On May 2, 1863, Alexander was with General “Stonewall” Jackson at the battle of Chancellorsville. Alexander got shot in his left ankle, and “Stonewall” Jackson was wounded that evening by friendly fire, requiring his left arm to be amputated. Jackson died of pneumonia eight days later. Due to the wound on his left ankle, which took about six weeks to heal, Alexander made his way slowly back to Richmond, while his brother, William, who was with him at Chancellorsville, moved on to Gettysburg, where he was killed on July 2, 1863. Alexander’s brother, Charles Thomson, was killed at Morris Island in Charleston on July 10, 1863. Tom Haskell, editor of the *Haskell Journal*, gave a detailed presentation at our Gettysburg reunion about the seven brothers who fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War. You can view that presentation [here](#).

In April 1864, Alexander was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and given command of the 7th Regiment South Carolina Cavalry. On May 29, 1864, during a battle near Cold Harbor, Alexander was wounded in the abdomen, a wound that finally healed while recovering in Richmond. By August 1st, he had been promoted to Colonel, in command of a revived 7th Regiment South Carolina Cavalry.

While leading a squad on the Darbytown Road just outside Richmond on October 7, 1864, they encountered General Kautz’s Division of Federal Cavalry, and Alexander was shot through the left eye and left for dead on the road. He lay there for about two hours before being found and transported to Richmond where he was unconscious for two days, awakening to the sight of his mother and father, who eventually took him back to South Carolina where he recuperated at the home of Mrs. Singleton in Columbia. He had access to surgeons and was fitted with a glass eye.

Alexander’s recovery was remarkable, and by Christmas he was well enough to go to his home in Abbeville. Sherman was marching through the South, and Savannah fell on Christmas day, where sixteen-year-old **Alice Van Yeveren Alexander** experienced the Yankee occupation of the city. Alice would later become Alexander’s second wife and the mother of ten more children.

By mid-January 1865, Alexander was well enough to head back to Virginia and resume command of his 7th Regiment South Carolina Cavalry, which he found in a miserable state. By mid-February, Columbia fell to Sherman’s burning march. Alexander joined General Lee in his attempt to hold onto Richmond against General Grant’s siege of the city. On April 2, 1865, Lee abandoned Richmond and Petersburg, heading west, pursued by Grant’s Union forc-

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es. After a week of retreat and fighting, Lee's forces were cornered, and on the afternoon of April 9, 1865, General Lee surrendered his army to General Grant at Appomattox Court House and appointed Colonel Alexander Haskell to surrender the Confederate Cavalry.

Following the surrender, Alexander returned home and began teaching school in Abbeville and studying law. In October 1865, he was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives under the newly adopted state constitution. He served two terms in the legislature before being elected Judge of the District Court in Abbeville in February 1867. He resigned that position in September 1867 to become Professor of Law at the University of South Carolina. However, he resigned that position in July 1868 to become actively involved in Democratic Party politics, and he opened a law practice in Columbia in November 1868.

In 1869, he met **Alice Van Yeveren Alexander**, who was visiting her brother, General Edward Porter Alexander in Columbia. Alice was now twenty-one, nine years younger than Alexander, but on December 30, 1869 they became engaged. They were married in Savannah on November 23, 1870 and moved into a small cottage in Columbia.

Alexander's daughter Decca II, who was eight years old when Alexander married Alice, continued to live with her grandmother, Mary Singleton, in Columbia. Decca II would also spend time with her maternal great-grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Carter, in Charlottesville, Virginia. It was there that she met a young attorney, Frank Gilmer, whom she married on March 17, 1886 in Columbia, SC.



Decca II (Haskell) Gilmer

Frank died on Oct. 10, 1917 at the age of 60, and Decca II continued to live in the Carter house in Charlottesville until her death on Jan. 23, 1946 at the age of 83. An article about Decca II, written by her granddaughter, Betsy Gilmer Tremain, appeared in Issue 54 of the *Haskell Journal* in 2000 and can be read [here](#).

The first decade of reconstruction following the end of the Civil War was challenging for Alexander and other southern Democrats. It was during this period that he moved his new wife, Alice, into the small house in downtown Columbia, the house in which his first four children with Alice were born.

Alexander Cheves "Alek" Haskell II, was born on August 15, 1871. He lived in South Carolina his entire life, owning Haskell's Dairy, and living to the age of 92.

Their second child, **Louisa Porter Haskell**, was born on July 25, 1872. She started



Alexander C. Haskell II



Louisa Porter Haskell



Mary Elizabeth Haskell

teaching in a girl's school in Boston, founded by her sister, Mary, and remained in Massachusetts, marrying a Harvard professor. In 1934, she published *Alexander Cheves Haskell: The Portrait of a Man*, which you can read online [here](#), and from which much of the material in this article is based.

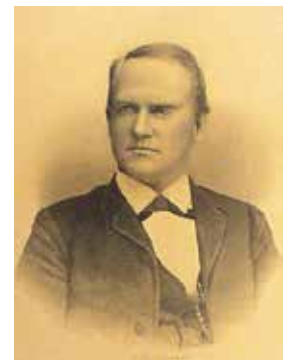
Mary Elizabeth Haskell, born on December 11, 1873, would become the most well-known and influential of all of Alexander's children, primarily due to her intimate relationship with the Lebanese-American writer, poet and artist, Kahlil Gibran.

Anthony Porter Haskell, born on January 27, 1875, was the first of Alexander's children to marry, but he lost three wives within seven years, before marrying a fourth wife who outlived him by fifty-eight years.



Anthony Porter Haskell

In February 1875, fire consumed the small cottage in Columbia where Alexander and Alice's first four children were born. Alice's father, Adam Leopold Alexander, who had the resources at the time, bought them 250 acres, four miles east of Columbia—a place known as "Claremont"—where they began small-scale farming and stock breeding. The political environment improved with the election of General Wade Hampton as Governor in 1876, and in the fall of 1876, the state legislature elected Alexander Cheves Haskell an Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court. It was at "Claremont" that the next three children of Alexander and Alice were born.



Justice Alexander C. Haskell

Marion Alexander Haskell was born on June 5, 1876, and her wedding in Savannah on June 17, 1908 would be the last wedding of one of his children that Alexander would live to see.



Marion Alexander Haskell

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Charles Thomson Haskell, born on April 25, 1878, moved to Wenatchee, Washington, where he married Emma Louisa Bourn on August 29, 1918. Their son, Charles Thomson Haskell II, the third of four children, was born on January 27, 1924 and is the father of our editor, Charles Thomson "Tom" Haskell III.



Charles Thomson Haskell

The third child to be born at "Claremont" was **Frederika Christina Haskell**, born December 10, 1880. She would be the last surviving child of Alexander and Alice when she died on May 7, 1973 at the age of 92.



Frederika Christina Haskell

Early in 1882, Alexander moved his growing family into "The House on the Hill" in Columbia, a large, handsome house that had been part of the old Taylor plantation. Alexander had resigned from the Supreme Court and had accepted an appointment as President of the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad. The last three of Alexander and Alice's children were born in this house.

Adam Leopold Haskell was born on September 1, 1882 and named for Alice's father. He became an engineer and [died suddenly on March 10, 1956](#) of a ruptured arterial aneurysm.



Adam Leopold Haskell

Alice Van Yeveren Haskell, named for her mother, was born on June 21, 1884. On October 17, 1906, she married Christie Benet, a lawyer, who would serve briefly as U. S. Senator in 1918, completing an unfinished term upon the death of Senator Benjamin Tillman.



Alice Van Yeveren Haskell



Suzanne Courtonne Haskell

Suzanne Courtonne Haskell was born on February 16, 1886, the youngest of Alexander and Alice's ten children. Married to a Harvard mathematics professor, she died of pneumonia at the age of 32 on January 1, 1919, after contracting influenza on Christmas day—a victim of the 1918

flu pandemic.

In 1886, Alexander resigned as president of the Charlotte, Columbia and Augusta Railroad, which had been leased by the Richmond and Danville Railway, and became the first president of the new Loan and Exchange Bank of Columbia. In 1890, he headed an unsuccessful attempt to run against the Democratic nominee, Benjamin Tillman, for governor. For this, he was vilified by his enemies, misunderstood by old friends, and withdrew permanently from public life.

Their magnificent home, "The House on the Hill," where the last three children had been born, burned to the ground on February 4, 1893. They moved into the house in Columbia previously owned by Mrs. Singleton, the house in which Alexander's first wife, Decca I, had died over thirty years before.

In a consolidation move in 1898, the Loan and Exchange Bank of Columbia became a National Bank and Alexander became Vice President, a post he would hold for the rest of his life.

On April 17, 1901, **Anthony Porter Haskell**, age 26, married 21-year-old **Sarah Ann Black**. He was the only one of the children to be married when the photograph on the cover of this issue was taken during the Christmas holiday in 1901. On April 25, 1902, Anthony and Sarah had a son they named Alexander Cheves Haskell, after his grandfather. On July 6, 1902, Anthony's wife Sarah died suddenly. The following item appeared in the newspaper the next day:

One of the saddest deaths recorded in Columbia in years occurred yesterday afternoon. Mrs. A. Porter Haskell died very suddenly. Mr. and Mrs. Haskell were driving into the city in a buggy from their home about three miles from the city. Mrs. Haskell was suddenly seized with neuralgia of the heart just as they were passing the orphanage. The serious nature of the attack neither realized and they hastened on into the city to the residence of Mr. Haskell's father, Judge A. C. Haskell, where they expected to spend the day. In about 10 minutes after arriving there Mrs. Haskell expired. Mrs. Haskell was a lovable young woman, about 25 years old, the daughter of Mr. Nicholas Austin Black of this county, and became Mr. Haskell's wife in April of last year. She leaves a little son just 2 1/2 months old, Alexander C. Haskell, third.

Sarah Ann "Sallie" Black Haskell was buried in [Elmwood Cemetery](#).

A year later, on August 5, 1903, Anthony Porter Haskell married **Lorraine Smith**, the head nurse at Columbia Hospital. They had one son, Anthony Porter Haskell, Jr., born on July 20, 1904. On June 22, 1906, Lorraine Smith Haskell died suddenly from heart failure and was buried in [Elmwood Cemetery](#).

The following year, Anthony Porter Haskell married 21-year-old **Grace Chappell** on November 7, 1907. She gave birth to a daughter in 1908 and a son in 1913. Then on April 14, 1916 [she died](#) after giving birth to a still-born daughter.

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On November 14, 1916, Anthony Porter Haskell married 20-year-old **Margaret Newman**, and they went on to have five children, three girls and two boys. Anthony was a dairyman and died on October 11, 1941 at the age of 66. Margaret eventually remarried and [died in Oklahoma City](#) on November 20, 1999 at the age of 103.

The mother of the family, **Alice Van Yeveren (Alexander) Haskell**, who had some health issues for a number of years, died on October 29, 1902 at the age of 54. The following notice ran in the newspaper the next day:



It was a great shock to the people of Columbia when it became known yesterday morning that the esteemed wife **Alice Van Yeveren Haskell** of Judge A. C. Haskell had died very unexpectedly at an early hour in the morning-4:30 o'clock. She had been in her usual health the preceding day. She was one of the most lovable women in Columbia and will be missed from the community where her gentle influence and sweet charity was a power for good. All who knew her loved her. Mrs. Haskell's maiden name was Alice van Yeveren Alexander and she was a daughter of Adam Leopold and Sarah Hillhouse Alexander of Washington, Ga., being a sister of Gen. E. P. Alexander of Savannah and also of Mrs. E. Boggs. She was born July 21, 1848 and married Hon. Alexander C. Haskell on Nov. 23, 1870.

Alice was also buried in [Elmwood cemetery](#).

However, the year 1902 ended on a happy note. On Christmas day, **Frederika Christina Haskell** married **Willoughby George Walling**. Frederika was 22 and Willoughby was 24. Willoughby became a banker and philanthropist, and he served as the national head of the Red Cross during World War I. He and Frederika had four children, three boys and a girl, the youngest, [Dr. Cheves T. Walling](#), became a distinguished professor of chemistry at the University of Utah. Willoughby Walling died on February 23, 1938 at the age of 59, while his wife Frederika lived another thirty-five years and [died on May 7, 1973](#) at the age of 92, being the last living child of Alexander and Alice Haskell.

On June 3, 1903, **Louisa Porter Haskell** married **Reginald Aldworth Daly**, who was born in Napanee, Ontario, Canada on March 18, 1871. He earned a PhD at Harvard and did postgraduate work in Germany and France. He was professor and head of the Department of Geology at Harvard University from 1912 to 1942. He died in Cambridge, Massachusetts on September 19, 1957.



Reginald Daly

In [Reginald Aldworth Daly 1871–1957, A Biographical Memoir](#) by Francis Birch, published by the National Academy of Sciences, Birch writes of Daly's wife,

Louise Porter Haskell [although born Louisa, she sometimes later went by Louise], of a distinguished South Carolina family, graduated from Radcliffe College in 1897 with a summa cum laude degree in history. In 1898 she taught in Miss Ward's School in Boston, a fashionable school for young ladies, which she soon acquired and directed until her marriage to Reginald Daly, in Columbia, South Carolina, in 1903. The school was then taken over by Mrs. Daly's sister, Mary E. Haskell, who later moved it to Cambridge.

Mrs. Daly was a charming woman of exceptional character and intellect, and there is little doubt that her aid was vital in Daly's writing. Not only did she type his manuscripts; her criticism helped to clarify his ideas and expressions, as many warm dedications bear witness. She was able to stimulate her husband's interest in art and music. She accompanied him on many of his travels, even occasionally in the field. The Dalys first set up housekeeping in Ottawa, as this was the period of the studies for the Canadian Boundary Commission. In 1907 they returned to Cambridge, thenceforth their home. Daly became a citizen of the United States in 1920.

Besides her literary collaboration on the many papers and books of her husband, Mrs. Daly found time to edit for publication the Civil War letters and papers of her father. This work, published as *Alexander Cheves Haskell, The Portrait of a Man*, has found its place in the treasury of firsthand reports of the War between the States. Daly's admiration of his wife's abilities was profound; to his sister-in-law he once remarked: "She had the finest mind I ever knew, in a woman." When a joke was attempted on the qualification, he said severely: "You forget that I have also known Whitehead, Einstein, etc." In his response to the presentation of the Penrose Medal in 1935 he further details his debts to his wife, "who has shared the fatigues, perspiration and mosquitoes of mountain land, the mal de mer of ocean voyages, and the misery of preparing manuscripts for print."

Louisa and Reginald had a son, named Reginald Aldworth Daly, born on February 28, 1907, whom they called Aldworth. In March 1909, when Aldworth was two, Louisa took him to Columbia to visit her father Alexander. Aldworth developed a temperature on April 1st and became unconscious on April 8th. His father, Reginald Daly, arrived on April 11th, and on April 15, 1909, Aldworth died without regaining consciousness. His grandfather, Alexander, who had become close to Aldworth, requested that Aldworth be buried between Alexander and his deceased wife Alice. When Alexander died a year later on April 13, 1910, he was buried in [Elmwood Cemetery](#), with Aldworth between Alice and him.

Louisa Porter Haskell Daly died in Cambridge on January 9, 1947. Her cremated remains were apparently buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where her husband, Reginald Aldworth Daly, is also buried, although a memorial marker for both Louisa and Reginald was erected in [Elmwood Memorial Gardens](#) in Columbia, South Carolina.

Mary Elizabeth Haskell graduated from Wellesley College in 1898. When her sister, Louisa, married Reginald Daly in 1903, Mary took over and ran the Haskell School for girls, located on Marlborough Street in Boston.

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In 1918, the Haskell School merged with the Cambridge School for Girls, becoming the Cambridge-Haskell School with Mary Haskell as the headmistress of the school, a position she held until she moved to Savannah, Georgia in 1923. The school moved from Cambridge to Weston, Massachusetts in 1931 and was renamed [The Cambridge School of Weston](#), which still exists today.

On May 10, 1904, Mary Haskell went to a friend's studio where she met **Kahlil Gibran**, a 21-year-old artist from Lebanon. Mary, who was then 30, was impressed with his art, thought he had potential, and encouraged him. In 1908, Mary offered to pay his expenses to study painting in Paris, which he did for two years. After arriving in Paris, he wrote, "The day will come when I shall be able to say, 'I became an artist through Mary Haskell.'"

When Kahlil returned from Paris, he and Mary would meet regularly at her school, where they shared their love of literature and discussed the deep meaning of the writings of many great authors. She encouraged him to begin writing in English and helped him edit everything he wrote. Their relationship deepened and is captured in the book, [Beloved Prophet: The love letters of Kahlil Gibran and Mary Haskell and her private journal](#). At one point, Kahlil and Mary talked about marriage, but Mary refused his proposal because of their age difference, and her wish not to impede his writing and art.



Mary Haskell and Kahlil Gibran

In 1918, the same year that Kahlil published his first book *The Madman*, he gave Mary a first draft of a manuscript, which Mary helped him polish over the next five years. When [The Prophet](#) was finally published in the fall of 1923, Mary [predicted](#),

This book will be held as one of the treasures of English literature. And in our darkness, we will open it to find ourselves again and the heaven and earth within ourselves. Generations will not exhaust it, but instead, generation after generation will find in the book what they would fain be—and it will be better loved as we grow ripper and ripper.

Since then, the book has sold millions of copies and has been translated into more than 100 languages.

While serving as headmistress of the Haskell School, Mary Haskell would spend her summers traveling, mostly hiking and camping out west, her favorite being the mountains of Yosemite, California, but also including trips to Europe in 1901 and 1906.

In the summer of 1908, Mary took her father, Alexander Cheves Haskell, on a two-month trip to Europe, sailing from Philadelphia on June 20 and arriving in Queenstown, Ireland on June 30. After checking out the towns of Cork, Macroom, Glengarriff, and Killarney in the southwest tip of Ireland, they spent three days in Dublin, followed by a visit to Belfast. Crossing the Irish Sea to Holyhead in

northwest Wales, they traveled through Conway, Chester, and Kenilworth, arriving in Oxford on July 16. Alexander could have stayed in Oxford permanently, but after two days, they proceeded on to London for a ten-day stay. On July 30, they arrived in Paris where they "did Paris" for seven days. Returning to London, Mary thought her father needed some quieter time in the country, so they spent the next week meandering through some of the coastal towns on the southwestern tip on England, including Tintagel in Cornwall, Clovelly and Ilfracombe in Devon, and Minehead in Somerset. On August 12, they took the train to Cambridge, and two days later continued on to Edinburgh, Scotland. After visiting Melrose and Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, they took the train to Aberdeen and on to Inverness, from which Mary's great-grandfather on her mother's side, Adam Alexander, sailed to America in the 18th century, arriving in Georgia and serving as an Army Surgeon in the Revolutionary War in 1776.

From Inverness, on August 19, they took the train to Oban, passing Loch Ness, Loch Lochy, and Loch Linnhe, and then on to Stirling with a visit to Loch Lomond. After stopping in Glasgow, they continued south to Keswick in the lake region of England, where they spent two days. They sailed from Liverpool on August 29th, arriving in Boston on September 9th.

On arriving back from his first-ever trip to Europe, Alexander wrote, "Few people have had such a travel as my dear Mary has given to her old Father." Mary summarized the trip, writing, "Father was an enchanting traveling companion. He was imperturbably serene and care-free; left all planning to me and did not care if plans failed or had to be changed on the spur of the moment." Mary continued, "I had not known how he would like traveling with me, for we had never been close friends before. But this trip created a great friendship between us, and we became bosom comrades."

Following the trip, Mary encouraged her father to write "Recollections" of his life, particularly his time during the Civil War. He did, and those recollections make up a large part of the book, [Alexander Cheves Haskell: The Portrait of a Man](#), which Louisa would publish in 1934.

On May 7, 1926, at the age of 52, Mary Haskell married **Jacob Florance Minis**, a wealthy, 73-year-old widower, whose first wife, **Louisa Porter Gilmer**, was Mary's first cousin. Louisa's mother, Louisa Frederica Alexander, was the sister of Mary's mother, Alice Van Yeveren Alexander. Jacob Minis died ten years later on September 3, 1936. Mary Elizabeth Haskell Minis died on October 9, 1964 at the age of 90. She is buried in [Laurel Grove Cemetery North](#) in Savannah, Georgia.

Just before leaving for Europe, on June 17, 1908, Alexander Cheves Haskell attended the wedding of his 32-year-old daughter, **Marion Alexander Haskell**, who married 34-year-old **Gaston Cesar Raoul** in Savannah, Georgia. They moved to Lookout Mountain, Tennessee and had

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five children—one son and four daughters. The oldest daughter, **Alice Van Yeveren Raoul**, died at the age of seven. Their son, **William Gaston Raoul**, was born on May 2, 1911 and was valedictorian of his graduating class at Dartmouth. He served as a lieutenant colonel in the 12th Armored Division in World War II, after which he returned to Tennessee and joined his father, who was President of the Cavalier Company in Chattanooga, a company that for many years made Coca Cola dispensing machines.

Gaston Cesar Raoul died in Lookout Mountain, Tennessee on September 4, 1960 at the age of 86, and his wife, Marion Alexander Haskell, [died nine days later](#) at the age of 84.

Also attending Marion's wedding in 1908 was her younger sister, **Alice Van Yeveren Haskell**, who had already married **Christie Benet** on October 17, 1906, when she was 22. Christie Benet was born on December 26, 1879 and started practicing law in Columbia, South Carolina in 1903. He became solicitor of the fifth judicial circuit in 1908 and served as attorney for the city of Columbia from 1910 to 1912. He was active in politics, serving three times as secretary of the Democratic State committee, and he was appointed on July 6, 1918 to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Benjamin R. Tillman. He served from July 6 to November 5, 1918 but was unsuccessful in his bid to be elected to the Senate in 1918. He returned to the practice of law and was a member and later chairman of the board of regents of South Carolina State Hospital from 1915 to 1946. During the Second World War, he served as chairman of the War Finance Committee for South Carolina and was serving as chairman of the Alien Enemy Hearing Board for the eastern district of South Carolina at time of death on March 30, 1951 at the age of 71. His wife, Alice Van Yeveren Haskell Benet, died on July 24, 1971 at the age of 87. Both she and Christie are buried in [Elmwood Cemetery](#).

The youngest daughter of Alexander Cheves Haskell, **Suzanne Courtonne Haskell**, was the maid of honor in her sister Marion's wedding in 1908 when she was 22. Three years later, on June 28, 1911, she married 30-year-old **Harvey Nathaniel Davis** at the home of Suzanne's sister, Frederika Christina (Haskell) Walling in Hubbard Woods, Winnetka, Illinois. At the time, Harvey was an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Harvard. Over the next few years, they would have two daughters, Suzanne Courtonne Davis, born November 5, 1913, and Louisa Frederika Davis, born January 19, 1916. During that time, Harvey Davis gained commercial experience, being associated with the turbine department of the General Electric Company in



Harvey N. Davis

1917-1918 and serving for four years as an aeronautical mechanical engineer in the United States Air Service. He was promoted to full professor at Harvard in 1919.

During the 1918 flu pandemic, Suzanne Haskell Davis became sick on Christmas day and [died on New Year's Day](#), 1919. A son born the same day also died. She was 32. The January 2, 1919 issue of *The State* newspaper recorded her death.

MRS HASKELL DAVIS DIES IN CAMBRIDGE

Columbia Woman Succumbs to Pneumonia
Following Attack of Influenza

News received in Columbia yesterday, announcing the death in Cambridge Tuesday night of Mrs. Susanne Haskell Davis, wife of Harvey N. Davis, professor of mathematics [sic] at Harvard University, came as a shock to a wide circle of friends here and cast a shadow of sorrow over New Year's Day. She was a sister of Mrs. Christie Benet and of Porter Haskell of this city.

Having been taken sick with influenza on Christmas day she was unable to resist the pneumonia, which developed, and she passed away just as the new year came in. The occurrence is made doubly sad by the coincident death of an infant son.

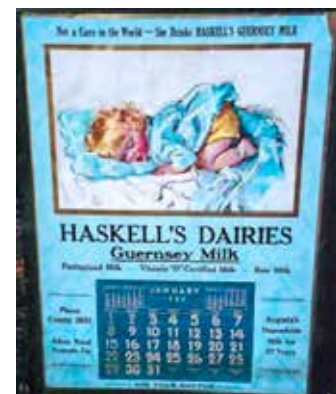
Harvey Davis married Alice Marian Rohde on September 20, 1920 and they had two children, a daughter Marian and a son Nathaniel. In 1928, Harvey Davis was elected to be the third president of the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, New Jersey. He died on December 3, 1952 at the age of 71.

Alexander Cheves Haskell, Jr., the oldest son of Alexander Cheves Haskell and Alice, married **Laura Tate Guion** on May 3, 1904 in Charlotte, North Carolina and they would have three sons. In 1912, Alexander and Laura moved from Laurens, South Carolina to North Augusta, South Carolina, where Alexander bought 250 acres of land and a small herd of cows and started Haskell's Dairy. His son, **Alexander Cheves Haskell III**, joined his father in the dairy business, and in the 1930s they started adding poems to the glass milk bottles. A typical poem would read,

Haskell's milk is just
the stuff
To make boys big
and strong and Tough
Boys don't make hits
with the Skirts
If they look like
little Squirts

You can read more of the Haskell Dairy poems in the article, ["Haskell's Dairy Operated with a Rhyme for a Reason,"](#) by Bill Baab.

In the 1930s and 1940s Haskell's Dairies started issuing calendars, stressing the importance of milk for infants.



Haskell's 1939 Calendar

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Haskell's Dairies lasted for sixty years, consolidating with Better Maid Dairy Products in 1965, but eventually going out of business in 1972. Alexander Cheves Haskell II [died in Aiken, South Carolina](#) on January 13, 1964 at the age of 92. His wife Laura had died on October 12, 1941 at the age of 70. Their son, Alexander Cheves Haskell III, died in Evans, Georgia on January 30, 1995.

Adam Leopold Haskell married **Natalie Soule Swart** on May 30, 1912. Adam was 29 and Natalie was 31. They adopted four children, including one daughter and twin brothers. After retiring



Adam Leopold and Natalie Haskell - 1915

as an engineer, Adam and his wife Natalie operated a charming guest house called *Tidalholm* in Beaufort, South Carolina from the 1930s until Adam's [sudden death in 1956](#), after which Natalie sold the home. *Tidalholm* was built in 1853 as a summer home by Edgar Fripp, used as a Union hospital in the Civil War, and was the setting for two Hollywood movies, *The Great Santini* in 1979 and *The Big Chill* in 1983. The 7-bedroom house [sold in 2017](#) for \$1.76 million after being on the market for four years with an initial asking price of \$4.5 million. In 2019, Country Living Magazine named *Tidalholm* the most famous historic house in all of South Carolina in an article on the "[50 Most Famous Historic Houses in America](#)." Natalie died on December 23, 1977 at the age of 96.



Tidalholm Mansion
1 Laurens Street, Beaufort, SC

After spending about two years at the University of South Carolina and then earning his lawyer's credentials at Harvard, **Charles Thomson Haskell** practiced law in Columbia, South Carolina for a few years before emigrating to the Pacific Northwest where he never practiced law again. His first job in the west was near Helena, MT, working in the construction of a trans-continental line and learning surveying. He took his surveying skills to Idaho, and eventually Wenatchee, Washington, where he helped lay out irrigation canals to furnish needed water to the orchards,



Charles Thomson Haskell

mostly apple orchards, but also pears, cherries, peaches, and apricots. He stayed in Wenatchee for the rest of his life, buying his own apple orchard, and ultimately with a partner, establishing an apple warehouse and shipping apples primarily to the New York City markets. He also served as Chamber of Commerce president for two terms, and 1-1/2 terms as mayor.

It was in Wenatchee where, at the age of 40, he married 21-year-old **Emma Louisa Bourn** on August 29, 1918. They would have four children, two daughters and two sons. The older son, **Charles Thomson Haskell II**, was born on January 27, 1924. After a 10-year career in banking, he earned a PhD in mathematics at the University of Arizona and taught mathematics at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California for twenty-five years.



Emma Louisa Bourn

At the Haskell Family Association reunion in Danvers, Massachusetts in 2002, Charles Thomson Haskell II related the following story about an event involving his father, Charles Thomson Haskell I, which occurred about 1910 in New York state.

Dad was on a train from Boston to, perhaps, Chicago. He chose to go to the observation car (at the rear of the train) to relax, and then to the observation platform through a door from the observation car to the platforms at the extreme rear. Dad faced the scenery back down the track that the train had just traversed, with his hands on the platform's rail. After a while, he became aware of company who had come to the platform, also. Dad did not look at him, and the visitor didn't see Dad's face, but said, "You are a Haskell, aren't you?" Then Dad faced him, asking how could he know this? The other gent revealed that he had operated and removed a Colonel Haskell's eye that had been shot at the Battle of Richmond in 1865 in combat between two cavalry colonels on horseback, and the Union officer shot first against his Confederate adversary. The eye had to be removed, and the gentleman on the platform was the doctor who performed that surgery. He said that my father and Dad's father had the same shaped head.

Charles Thomson Haskell I [died in Wenatchee, Washington](#) on May 18, 1951 at the age of 73. His wife Emma died on August 14, 1955 at the age of 58. Their son, Charles Thomson Haskell II, who died on January 27, 2009 in Newport, Oregon at the age of 85, had married Mary Jane Harford on November 27, 1947. They had three sons, the oldest being our editor, Charles Thomson "Tom" Haskell III.

In the years following the Civil War, Alexander Cheves Haskell I often spoke at Memorial Day events about how "We are one country now and all brothers." In a Memorial Day address at Spartanburg, South Carolina in 1896, he

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commented on the causes of the war and the implications of its outcome:

"The real cause of the war was slavery. . . This southern institution was in conflict with the principle and purpose of this great western civilization; for it withheld from our white people the full and impartial enjoyment of liberty, paralyzed our energy, and fettered our progress. It made labor menial rather than the most honorable duty. It made our government aristocratic rather than democratic. . . But slavery was not the . . . motive that inspired the hearts of our men with courage, self-sacrifice and patient endurance. . . They did not fight for slavery. In truth, a large majority of that immortal rank and file were not slave holders. . . They, with the slave-holding class, their brothers in arms, fought in defense of God-given liberty.

"Nor did the men of the north fight to free the negro, but solely for the preservation of the Union. Each side fought for its country. We had been taught that our State was our country; they, the United States.

"When we went back into the Union, we yielded the point over which we had fought, not because it was wrong, but because it had been settled by the final arbitrator. By accepting these terms, we pledged our loyalty to the United States. Let us act in good faith and love our whole country and be proud and grateful that we are joint inheritors of a common citizenship."

He emphasized citizenship in an address to pupils in the public schools, in which he said, in part,

"I know you would be good soldiers, but I want you to be good citizens. The latter is not so arduous as the first, but it is really more difficult... If all citizens of every country did their duty war could not occur. To keep the peace without sacrifice of principle is more noble than military achievement. War is a calamity; an evil to correct a greater evil. It is sure to leave in its trail evils from which to recover takes time and effort. Hence the special importance now of good citizenship. Every citizen should feel that the fate of his country turns upon his conduct... The ballot is your power. Freedom of the ballot and honest election are the corner stone of a republic and must be preserved."

More of Alexander Cheves Haskell's speeches are included in an article about him in [Issue 35](#) of the *Haskell Journal*.

If Alexander Cheves Haskell had died on Darbytown Road on October 7, 1864 after being shot through the left eye and left for dead for two hours, none of the ten children shown on the cover of this issue, nor any of their descendants, would ever have been born. That was a close call. In [Issue 94](#) of the *Haskell Journal*, Richard E. Haskell wrote an article entitled, "The Unlikelihood of Being Born." On such innumerable "close calls" rests the very existence of all of us.

A recently published book *An Everlasting Circle: Letters of the Haskell Family of Abbeville, South Carolina 1861-1865* Edited by Karen Stokes (Mercer University Press, 2019, ISBN: 978-0-88146-719-2) has excellent short profiles of Alexander Cheves Haskell and his brothers and sisters.



**Gravestones of Alexander Cheves Haskell
and his wife
Alice Van Yeveren Alexander
with their two-year-old grandson
Reginald Aldworth Daly
buried between them.**

