

of the Thirty-second Degree in the Ancient and Accepted Scotch Rite. On August 4, 1870, he was constituted the representative of the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of the State of Louisiana, at the Grand East of the Royal Arch Chapter of Maryland, and still occupies that position. On November 20, 1878, he was appointed by the Grand Lodge of Maryland, Grand Inspector of Kent and Queen Anne's counties.

MERRYMAN, JOHN, of Hayfields, was born at Hereford Farm, Baltimore County, Maryland, August 9, 1824. His father was Nicholas Rogers Merryman; his mother Ann Maria Gott. His grandfather, John Merryman, was born at the same farm, and was a merchant and farmer. In connection with James Calhoun, Hercules Courtenay, Thomas and Jesse Shillingsworth, he took an active part in securing the act of the General Assembly incorporating the city of Baltimore. He was President of the Second Branch of the first City Council, James Calhoun was Mayor, and Hercules Courtenay, President of the First Branch. The families of Merryman and Rogers emigrated from Herefordshire, England, about the middle of the seventeenth century. There were frequent intermarriages in the families. The maiden names of John Merryman's grandmother and great-grandmother were Sally Rogers. The records of the court of Baltimoretown for 1659, show that Nicholas Rogers was clerk of the court, and Charles Merryman Foreman of Grand Inquest. In 1839, having had but limited advantages of education, he entered the hardware store of Richard Norris in Baltimore. In the winter of 1841 he accepted a situation tendered him by his maternal uncle, Samuel N. Gott, in his counting-room at Guayama, Porto Rico, West Indies. He returned home in July, 1842, and was induced to remain and take charge of several farms belonging to his uncle, John Merryman. In 1843 he settled at Hayfields, and the next year married Ann Louisa, daughter of the late Elijah Bosley Gittings. They have ten children living. In the year 1847 he was Third Lieutenant of Baltimore County Troops; and in 1861 was First Lieutenant of Baltimore County Horse Guards. Captain Ridgely having tendered the services of the Horse Guards to the Maryland State authorities, April 19, 1861, they were accepted the next day, and mustered at Towson-town, from whence they proceeded to Monument Square, Baltimore, where they received orders to take a position on the right of the infantry, on Fort Avenue, in South Baltimore, to repel a mob supposed to have in contemplation an attack on Fort McHenry. There being no signs of a mob, towards morning they returned to Monument Square, and were dismissed to reassemble at Towson-town that day. Lieutenant Merryman was detailed with a small force to establish a post at the Hayfields House, there having been a large number of troops located in the immediate neigh-

borhood, owing to the destruction of the railroad bridges between Ashland and Baltimore. Learning that a United States officer had been sent to Ashland to have the troops returned to Pennsylvania, Lieutenant Merryman rode to Ashland, and was introduced to Major Belger, and offered to render him or the troops any service required; and if necessary would slaughter his cattle to supply them with food. Major Belger distinctly stated his business. He soon learned there was an interference on the part of the Pennsylvania authorities, who, notwithstanding the order of the President of the United States, to pass the troops around, determined to push them through Baltimore. It was believed the result of the attempt would have been the destruction of the soldiers, and, perhaps, of Baltimore. Acting upon this information, the Governor of Maryland ordered that the bridges should be destroyed on the Northern Central Railway, after the troops passed north, to prevent them returning with Sherman's battery, and other reinforcements, as intended by the Pennsylvania authorities. The Lieutenant received instructions from Captain Ridgely to execute the Governor's order; but he exercised his own discretion, and instead of destroying a number of valuable structures, he burned one bridge, south of Parkton, and a few trestles above that point. This effectually prevented the return of the troops by that route. In reply to the Lieutenant's report, the commanding General issued an order, commending in high terms the manner in which the Governor's order had been executed. A few weeks afterwards, at three o'clock on the morning of May 25, 1861, Lieutenant Merryman's house was surrounded by United States soldiers, and he was arrested and conveyed to Fort McHenry. While there he was indicted for treason, the overt act being the burning of the bridge and trestles, which was done in the execution of his sworn duty as an officer of the militia of Maryland. He immediately sent a petition for a *habeas corpus* to Chief Justice Taney, and he ordered the General in charge to present Mr. Merryman before him, in the United States Court-room, in Baltimore, May 27. The order was disobeyed, and the United States marshal was directed to bring General Cadwalader before the Chief Justice on Tuesday, May 28, for contempt. This order was not executed, for the reason that the President of the United States instructed the General to resist the marshal. Upon receiving the return of the marshal, the Chief Justice declared his decision in these words: "It is, therefore, very clear, that John Merryman, the petitioner, is improperly held, and is entitled to be immediately discharged from imprisonment." The opinion in the case is very long, and fully sustains the decision. Mr. Merryman declares his sympathies with the South in the late controversy, but acknowledges the constant and persevering services of a number of friends, who were Union men, in protecting him from prosecutions. Although bound over to answer at trial for treason, he was never brought to trial. Having been surrounded by Whig associations, he took no

prominent part in politics until the Know-Nothing party was organized, in opposition to which he became active in Democratic ranks, and in 1855 was nominated for the House of Delegates; but the Know-Nothings secured the election. Two years afterward the same nomination was tendered him, but preferring the position of County Commissioner, that nomination was made, and he was elected, receiving one hundred and fifteen more votes than the gubernatorial candidate received in the county. He was made President of the Board. At the expiration of his term he declined a renomination. In 1870 he was elected Treasurer of the State of Maryland, and in connection with Governor Oden Bowie, succeeded in placing the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal upon a much better footing than they found it. The net earnings in the two years of their administration were four hundred and forty thousand dollars. He was a member of the House of Delegates in 1874. As early as 1849 Mr. Merryman took an active part in the affairs of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, and was its Vice-President for Baltimore County in 1852, and President in 1857, which position he held until the beginning of the war. In 1866 he issued a circular to the active members of the society, inviting them to meet at his office in Baltimore, when it was reorganized under the name of the Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association, of which the late Ross Winans was elected President. In 1877 the Carroll County Agricultural Society invited the State Association to hold an exhibition in connection with it upon their grounds at Westminster. The Presidency of the State Association being vacant, on account of the resignation of A. Bowie Davis, Mr. Merryman was elected to fill the vacancy, and conducted the exhibition very successfully. For many years he has given special attention to Hereford cattle, and sheep for mutton. For the cattle he received a bronze medal and diploma at the Centennial Exposition in 1876, and is rewarded for his attention to sheep-raising by the highest prices given for the best mutton reaching the Baltimore market. Mr. Merryman is also a member of the Executive Committee of the United States Agricultural Society, and Vice-President for Maryland of the National Agricultural Association; he is also one of the Trustees of Maryland Agricultural College. He established the house of John Merryman & Co., dealers in fertilizers, in Baltimore in 1865. Mr. Merryman's ancestors and their descendants have always been church people. His grandfather, John Merryman, represented St. Paul's Church in a convention held in Annapolis in 1773. He has himself been Register, Treasurer, and Vestryman of Sherwood Church and Parish in Baltimore County, since 1845, and its only delegate to diocesan conventions for thirty years. Mr. Merryman's children are: Nannie G., Bettie, N. Bosley, a merchant of Marietta, Georgia, where he married Willie McClosky, John, D. Buchanan, E. Gittings, William D., Louisa G., James McKenney, and Laura F. and Roger B. T., who died in infancy.

GROOME, COLONEL JOHN CHARLES, Attorney-at-Law, was born at Elkton, Cecil County, Maryland, June 8, 1800. He was the son of Doctor John and Elizabeth Black Groome. Doctor John Groome was a distinguished and popular physician at Elkton, and repeatedly represented Cecil County in the State Legislature. He was the son of Charles Groome, of Kent County, Maryland, who was a prominent man in old Kent, and Register of Chester Parish from 1766 until his death in 1791. Charles Groome was the son of Samuel Groome, a distinguished citizen, and a churchwarden of St. Paul's Parish as early as 1726. John C. Groome, the subject of this sketch, after being prepared for college, entered Princeton at an early age, and graduated with the highest honors of his class. He read law with the Honorable E. F. Chambers and Levin Gale, Esq., and afterward graduated at the Litchfield Law School. He commenced the practice of law at Elkton in 1825. He soon took high rank as a lawyer, and thereafter, until his death, had a most extensive and lucrative practice. He enjoyed and justly deserved the reputation of an honest and conscientious lawyer, which secured him great influence in his profession. He was eminently a peacemaker, and sought to adjust claims and disputes without recourse to the courts. Few men have had so many law students. Among the number were the Honorable Alexander Evans, Honorable Hiram McCullough, Honorable John A. J. Creswell, Honorable J. Jewett, and Honorable James B. Groome, all of whom have served in Congress. Indeed; so numerous were his law students, that he was called the father of the Cecil bar. In politics, Colonel Groome was an old-line Whig, but he was never a politician in the usual sense of that word. In 1833 the Senate of Maryland, which then filled its own vacancies, selected Colonel Groome, without consulting him and before he was aware of the intention of that body, to fill a vacancy that had occurred. He yielded to the importunities of his friends and served the three remaining years of the Senatorial term, but could not be induced to accept a re-election. For twenty years afterward his professional duties, the management of his large landed estate, and his disinclination to public life, prevented his acceptance of office. He, however, filled many important business positions, and his wise counsels always carried weight with those with whom he was associated. In 1856 Colonel Groome, with many other old-line Whigs, supported James Buchanan for the Presidency. In 1857 the Democratic press throughout the State of Maryland advocated his nomination for Governor. The Democratic State convention made no nomination, but recommended all opponents of "Know-Nothingism" to support Colonel Groome as an independent candidate. He thus ran in opposition to Thomas Holliday Hicks, the nominee of the American party, and received a majority of the votes cast in the State outside of the city of Baltimore. In personal appearance Colonel Groome had decided

HALL OF RECORDS
1619
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

THE
BIOGRAPHICAL CYCLOPEDIA
OF
REPRESENTATIVE MEN
OF
MARYLAND
AND
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

BALTIMORE:
NATIONAL BIOGRAPHICAL PUBLISHING CO.
1879.