

WINFIELD SCOTT SCHLEY

WINFIELD SCOTT SCHLEY was born in Frederick county, Maryland, October 9, 1839, son of John Thomas and Georgiana Schley. He was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1860, and was assigned to the frigate "Niagara." In 1861 he was made master, and sent to the store-ship "Potomac," at Ship Island. In 1862-63 he served in the West Gulf blockading squadron, and fought a field battery on the Mississippi river at Port Hudson, Louisiana, and during this time was promoted to lieutenant. In 1864-66 he was with the Pacific squadron, distinguishing himself during an insurrection of Chinese coolies on the Chincha Islands, and in San Salvador in the protection of American persons and property during a revolution. In 1866 he was made lieutenant-commander, and for three years was an instructor in languages at the Naval Academy. In 1870 and for three years he was on the China station, and led the assaulting column against the forts on the Sulee river. In 1873-76 he was again on the instructional staff at the Naval Academy, meantime being advanced to the rank of commander. In 1877, commanding the "Essex," he rescued a shipwrecked company on Tristan d'Acunha Island. He was lighthouse inspector, 1880-83, and in the latter year was attached to the bureau of equipment.

Perhaps the most notable achievement of Commodore Schley was his search for Greely and his exploring in the Arctic regions, in 1884. Greely, with twenty-five men, had sailed from St. Johns, Newfoundland, in June, 1881, and disappeared from view. Two ineffectual attempts had been made to find the party, when Schley (then a commander) volunteered to make an attempt, and on May 12, 1884, he sailed from St. Johns with three vessels, and, overcoming what would have been regarded by a less courageous soul as insuperable

difficulties, in the last part of June he found seven of the survivors, in an awful condition, their only sustenance for weeks having been water in which had been boiled strips of their sealskin garments. The survivors were safely brought home, and also the bodies of nine of their dead companions. In honor of his humane and hazardous achievement, Commander Schley received from the State of Maryland the thanks of its Legislature, and a gold watch, and from the Massachusetts Humane Society, a gold medal of the first class, and the land near which he had made the rescue was named Schleyland. From 1885 to 1889, Schley (now captain) was at the head of the Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting. In 1889-91 he commanded the "Baltimore" during the difficulties with Chili, and later was sent to Sweden with the remains of the famous John Ericsson; and for this service received from King Oscar a gold medal. In 1892 he served again as lighthouse inspector, and commanded a cruiser from 1895 to 1897, when he became chairman of the lighthouse board. In February, 1898, he was promoted to commodore.

At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Commodore Schley was ordered to the "Brooklyn," as commander of the Flying Squadron. Then followed the operations about Cienfuegos and Santiago, and Schley's discovery of the Spanish fleet in the latter harbor, and the conflict, in which the four Spanish vessels were run aground under the fire from the Americans. Commodore Schley was absent at the outset, but arrived before the action was over. Schley's early movements were criticized in some quarters, but he was exculpated by an examining board, and the popular verdict was most favorable to him. Promoted to rear-admiral, at the close of the war, he was made a member of the military commission in Porto Rico, and, this duty discharged, he returned home and was received in several principal cities with the highest

honor, and was made the recipient of various valuable gifts—a gold and jeweled sword at Philadelphia, from the people of Pennsylvania; and another by citizens of New York; and a gold medal set with jewels by the people of Maryland, the Governor of the State making the presentation. In 1885, in collaboration with Professor James R. Soley, U. S. N., he wrote "The Rescue of Greely."

Commodore Schley married, at Annapolis, Maryland, in 1863, Anna Rebecca, daughter of George E. Franklin, and to them were born three children: Lieutenant Thomas Franklin Schley, U. S. A.; Virginia Wortley, and Dr. Winfield Scott Schley. He died suddenly on the street in New York City, October 2, 1911, and his remains were interred at Washington, D. C.



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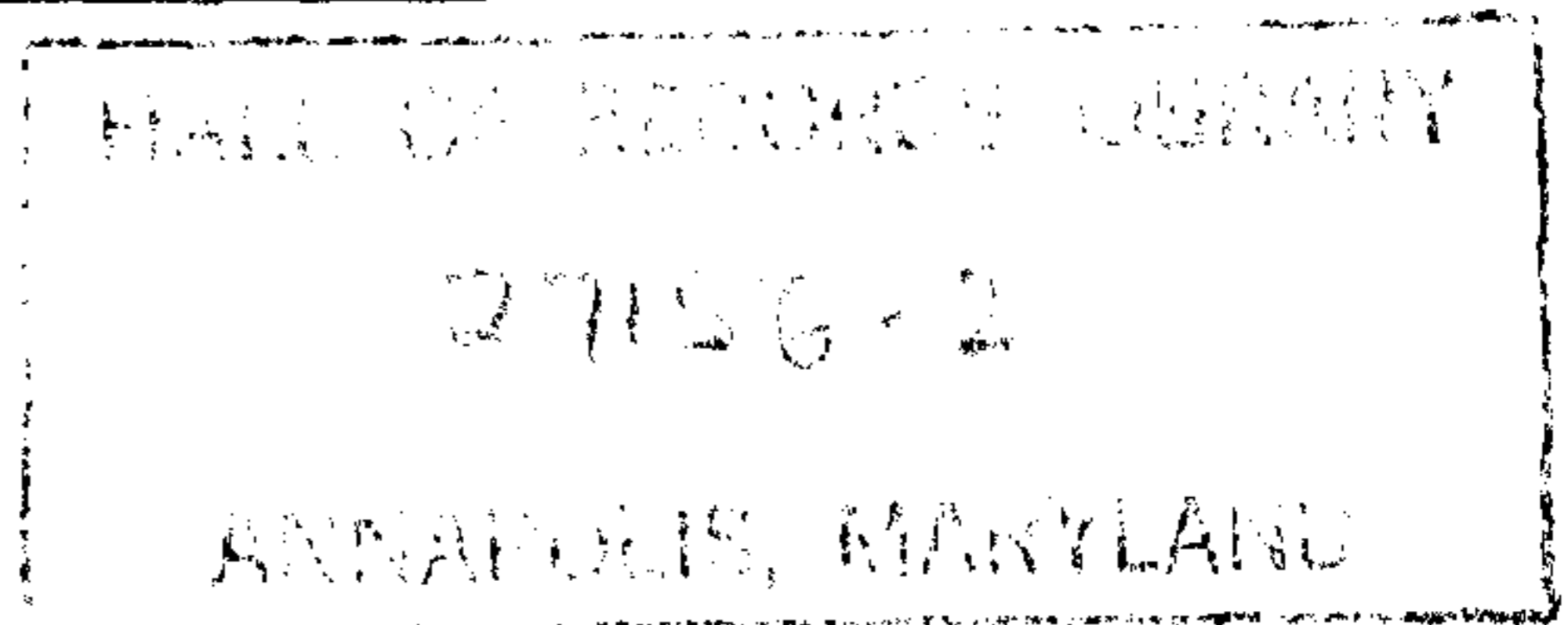
A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making
of a Commonwealth and the Founding of a Nation

Under the Editorial Supervision of

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"Carlyle Family"; "Thomas Family of Talbot County,
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