

Men of Mark in Maryland

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of the State

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With an Introductory Chapter
on
Baltimore as a Manufacturing Center

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LOUIS VICTOR BAUGHMAN

THE late General Louis Victor Baughman was not only one of the best known men and best citizens of Maryland, but was also one of the most chivalrous and most cultivated men of his generation. His family in both the paternal and maternal lines has been identified with Maryland for from four to nine generations, and is connected with a large number of leading families of the State by ties of blood relationship. In the paternal line, the family was founded by his great grandfather, a sea captain who brought to Maryland many of the first settlers of Frederick County, and his family has been identified with Frederick County from that time down to the present. The son of the old sea captain was a substantial farmer of that county, and the grandson was John W. Baughman, father of the subject of this sketch, and one of the strong men of the last generation. John W. Baughman was a man of notable character. Thrown upon his own resources in early life, he clerked for a time in a mercantile establishment of Frederick; then two years in St. John's College; entered the mercantile business, and by a combination of capacity, industry and integrity built up a large and successful trade. He was married in 1844, to Mary Jane Jamison, daughter of Baker Sylvester and Louisa (Mudd) Jamison. Just prior to his marriage, he had entered the legal profession, having read law under James M. Coale. Shortly after his marriage, he was induced to take hold of *The Frederick Citizen*, known then as *The Republican Citizen*. The remainder of his life was given to the conduct of this paper. A man of fine natural ability, strong will and much determination—a staunch Democrat in his political convictions and in full sympathy with the South in those stormy days of the '50's and '60's, he made his paper a power, and drew down upon himself the wrath of the Federal Government, which, after first imprisoning him and confiscating his property, finally banished him beyond the Federal lines. During the remainder of the war, he served in an official position in Richmond; and after the war, resumed publication of his paper, which he continued until his death, July 31, 1872.



L. Victor Paughman

Louis Victor Baughman was the eldest child of the marriage of John W. Baughman to Mary Jane Jamison, and was born in Frederick City on April 11, 1845. Looking back through the entire list of General Baughman's ancestral lines, we come in contact with many of the great names of Maryland, among them Leonard Calvert, the first Governor and founder of the Colony, who ruled Maryland from 1634 to 1637. Another great figure in that early period was the Reverend Robert Brooke, who settled in Maryland in 1650, and was Deputy Governor of the Province from 1652 to 1654. Crossing the Maryland line into Virginia, there looms up Governor Edward Diggs, 1654-58; and coming back to Maryland, Deputy Governor William Diggs of Maryland, 1684-1687. Going back again to the earliest period, we find Captain James Neale, who came from England to Maryland in 1642; was a member of the Provincial Council in 1643; again in 1661, and of the assembly in 1666. General Baughman was in direct line of descent from all of these notable characters of the earliest period of the Colony; but, these cover but a small part; for, tracing out the line farther, there appear the Sewells, Lowes, Boarmans, Matthews, Piles, Pyes, and many others which in the earlier generations were names to conjure with in Maryland. There flowed, therefore, in his veins the best blood of the Colony and State, always noted for the high character and excellent quality of its citizenship.

General Baughman was reared in Frederick and educated at Rock Hill and Mount St. Mary's Colleges. At the age of sixteen he ran the blockade and entered the Confederate Army as a private in Captains McAleer's company of the First Maryland Infantry. While in this command, he took part in the battles of Malvern Hill and Gaines' Mill. He was then transferred to Company D. of the First Maryland Cavalry under Captain Welch; served under Early and Breckenridge in their raid through Maryland, and also in the well known Chambersburg raid in 1864. He was captured at Moorefield Virginia, about midsummer of 1864, was imprisoned in Camp Chase, Ohio, for nine months, and exchanged in March 1865, just prior to the fall of Richmond.

General Baughman accompanied his family back to Maryland after the fall of the Confederacy, and took up the duties of active life. From that time until his death, on November 30, 1906, at his residence, Poplar Terrace, Frederick, he was one of the foremost

characters of the State. He read law under ex-Governor E. Louis Lowe, who was then living in Brooklyn, New York, and was employed by a steamship company of New York.

Upon the death of his father in 1872 General Baughman, in connection with his younger brother, J. Wm. Baughman, took charge of *The Frederick Citizen* and continued the paper under the firm name of Baughman Brothers. Under their management, the paper continued to be, as it had been in the life time of the father, one of the most influential and best edited papers of the State. The record of *The Frederick Citizen* under the Baughmans is perhaps unsurpassed in the United States. The paper was founded as far back as May 1821, and during its history has supported every Democratic Presidential nominee, from William H. Crawford down to the present. It is a record of consistent adherence to the principles of the party founded by Thomas Jefferson, which probably cannot be equaled by a half dozen papers in the United States.

As soon as he had gotten a fair foothold, General Baughman was married on September 27, 1881, to Miss Helen Abell, fourth daughter of the Honorable A. S. Abell, the famous founder of *The Baltimore Sun* and of one of the most noted journalistic families in the United States. The Abell family go back to the early settlement of Massachusetts about 1630 and through this connection General Baughman's children combine the Maryland Cavalier blood with the New England Puritan. See pp. 416-428 2d volume this Series for Abell family sketch. The living children of this marriage are: E. Austin Baughman and Mrs. Helen Baughman Conley.

It was but natural that a man so devoted to Democratic principles, and editor of one of the foremost journals of that faith in the State, should become a large figure in the party life of the State, and for many years General Baughman was a most potent factor in shaping the party policy of Maryland. His commanding personality, wide acquaintance, and unusual grasp of public questions and all matters political, amounting almost to genius, caused his counsel to be in great demand by his Party, and he served for several years upon the National Democratic Committee, as well as upon the State Democratic Committee and the Democratic County Committee, of which he was for a long time the Chairman. For four years he was Comptroller of the State Treasury. He was President of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal; Chairman of the

Board of Commissioners for Maryland of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. His military experience was utilized by three Governors on whose staffs he served,—first, Governor Groome; then Governor John Lee Carroll; and finally on the staff of Governor John Walter Smith, as Inspector General of the State.

Through life, he was a member of the Catholic Church. By virtue of his descent from numerous colonial soldiers, he held membership in the Society of Sons of Colonial Wars. Keenly interested in the United Confederate Veterans Association, he was one of the early members of that society, and for many years took an active interest in the affairs of the Alexander Young Camp of Confederate Veterans. He held membership in many Democratic clubs throughout the country. In social club life he was attached to the Maryland, the Journalists, Maryland Jockey, Country, and the Bachelors Cotillon Clubs.

It would have been hard to find a man of a higher degree of personal popularity, and equally hard to find one who more richly deserved it. This personal popularity was based on a combination of qualities—he was not half-hearted in anything. Any cause which he espoused could command his strength to the limit. Whether in Church or in State—in peace or in war—in the parlor or in the field, he put his heart into everything that he undertook, and by reason of strong mental and personal qualities attracted men to him. Possibly had his tastes run in that channel, he would have filled many high political positions,—and his abilities were equal to the highest; but he seemed to be content with helping others, rather than the pushing of his own preferment. That he was appreciated thoroughly and fully by those with whom he came in contact, and by those whom he served, is shown by the record; and when he passed away at the comparatively early age of sixty-one, he was lamented from one end of the State to the other. He belonged to a generation the like of which we shall not see again soon—a generation which fought the greatest war in the annals of history, where brother was lined up against brother, in support of principles which each believed to be right; and no man in that mighty struggle bore himself more gallantly than the young Marylander who for four long years wore the sabre of a private trooper. Perhaps the best summing up of his character would be found in the word “faithfulness.”