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THE NATIONAL CYCLOPÆDIA OF AMERICAN BIOGRAPHY

BEING THE

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

AS ILLUSTRATED IN THE LIVES OF THE FOUNDERS, BUILDERS, AND DEFENDERS
OF THE REPUBLIC, AND OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE
DOING THE WORK AND MOULDING THE
THOUGHT OF THE PRESENT
TIME

EDITED BY

DISTINGUISHED BIOGRAPHERS, SELECTED FROM EACH STATE
REVISED AND APPROVED BY THE MOST EMINENT HISTORIANS, SCHOLARS, AND
STATESMEN OF THE DAY

VOLUME XVII

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
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Reese Wright, a farmer of Farmland, Ind.; she died in 1913. There is one surviving child: Frank Bursley Taylor, Fort Wayne, with the U. S. geological survey. Robert Stewart Taylor died at Fort Wayne, Jan. 28, 1918.

CLAFFLIN, Price Colby, jeweler and optician, was born in Summit, Waukesha co., Wis., Oct. 17, 1849, son of Gilbert Elton and Esther Patience (Colby) Claffin, and a descendant of John Alden of the Mayflower; the line of descent is traced as follows: John Alden and his wife Priscilla Mullins; their son Joseph and his wife Mary Simmons; their son John and his wife Hannah White; their son Noah and his wife Joanna Vaughn; their son Israel and his wife Thankful Markham; and their daughter Lucy, wife of Joshua Claffin, a soldier in the Revolutionary war, who were the grandparents of Price C. Claffin. His father, Gilbert Elton Claffin, served in the army during the civil war. The son was educated in the public schools of Oconomowoc, Wis., and at the age of eighteen entered upon a business career as jeweler and optician at Stevens Point, Wis., where he remained for twenty years. There he was closely identified with the First Presbyterian Church, being an elder and trustee of the church and also the superintendent of the Sunday school. After removing to Washington, D. C., in 1888, he made a liberal subscription to the church, to assist in liquidating its debt. In Washington he founded the Claffin Optical Co., of which he was president and treasurer, and continued in the active promotion of its interests for twenty-five years. Mr. Claffin was also deeply engaged in church work in Washington, and for a quarter of a century was a member of the First Congregational Church there. He served several terms as deacon and was also trustee at time of his death, and a large part of the time was teacher of an adult class in the Sunday school. He was a 32d degree Mason, being attached to the Milwaukee Consistory since 1882; also a member of Temple Noyes Lodge No. 32, F. & A. M., Columbia Chapter, R. A. M., and Columbia Commandery, K. T., all of Washington, D. C. With his wife, who was also a descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, he was a member of the Mayflower Society of Washington since its organization. He was much interested in travel, having visited Europe in 1900, and later Cuba, Mexico, Panama, California and Canada. He was married Oct. 8, 1872, to Elizabeth H., daughter of Enos J. Montagne, of Ft. Atkinson, Wis., who survives him with four children: Harry E., now president and treasurer of the Claffin Optical Co., Inc.; Mabel Faith, who married Melville D. Lindsay, of Washington, D. C.; Marguerite E., who married Harold E. Warner, of Washington, D. C.; and Elsie Grace, who married Julius A. Payne, of Philadelphia. Mr. Claffin died in Washington, D. C., Dec. 28, 1914.

SAGER, Frederick Whitney, manufacturer, was born in Syracuse, N. Y., June 20, 1869, son of A. Park and Nellie D. (Thurston) Sager, and grandson of Jacob Sager, of Dutch descent. The name appears on record at Albany, N. Y., as early as 1642. His father and uncle, George J. Sager, were proprietors of Sager Bros. Co., knit goods manufacturers, Syracuse, which at one time employed over 3,600 operatives in the manufacture of hand-made silk, Angora and worsted goods, and young Frederick entered this business after completing a high school education. He became chief executive of Sager Bros. Co. in 1914, continuing as its head until 1918, when he retired and devoted himself thereafter chiefly to civic

and municipal affairs. He was a 32d degree Mason, and a member of the Rotary Club, Syracuse. He found his chief recreation in automobiling and in motor boats. Politically he was a Republican and he was a communicant of the Methodist church. He was a capable business man, an interested and discerning student of public affairs, a generous but unobtrusive contributor to private and public charity. He was married Mar. 31, 1892, to Janet, daughter of Theron Cooper, a clergyman of Syracuse; she survives him, with one child: Theron Sager, a government chemist, of Washington, D. C. He died at Skanateles Lake, N. Y., June 13, 1919.

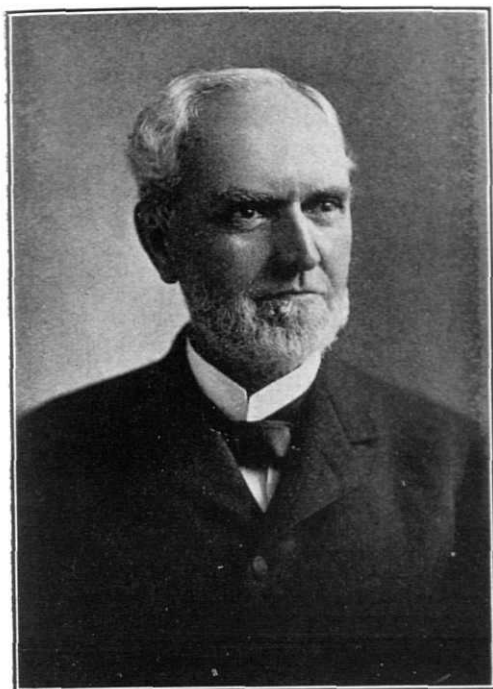
JACKSON, Samuel Spencer, lawyer, was born on his father's plantation, Chatham county, N. C., Sept. 6, 1832, son of Samuel Spencer and Elizabeth Kinchen (Alston) Jackson, grandson of Isaac Jackson and Mary (Spencer) Jackson, and great-grandson of John Jackson, of Anson county, N. C., a member of assembly from that county at New Bern in 1773, member of the North Carolina house of commons 1782-83, appointed Dec., 1776, by Halifax Convention justice of the peace, enlisted in war Sept. 8, 1778, a lieutenant-colonel in the militia, and a petitioner to assembly for redress of grievances under which the people were being oppressed by the royal government in 1769. Isaac Jackson, son of John Jackson, was representative in general assembly of North Carolina, 1796-7. He removed to Huntsville, Alabama, where he purchased large tracts of land, removing his family, leaving his only son Samuel Spencer Jackson in North Carolina. Mary Spencer Jackson, his wife, was the daughter of Judge Samuel Spencer, born in East Haddam, Conn., in 1739. He was graduated from Princeton in the year 1759, removed to Anson county, N. C., in 1760. He served in both a civil and military capacity. He was one of three judges of the superior court first elected under the constitution of 1777, member of convention, July, 1788, to deliberate on the Federal Constitution; field officer for Anson in the Revolution; member of provincial council of safety, which was the real executive of the state during the interim between the abdication of Gov. Martin (the royal governor) in 1775 and the accession of Richard Caswell, the governor under the constitution of 1776; was member of the first Provincial Congress at New Bern, Aug., 1774, which was the first movement of the people of a state adverse and opposed to the royal government. The degree of LL.D. was conferred on him at Princeton at the commencement Sept. 29, 1784. Samuel Spencer Jackson is also descended from Jerrard (or Geret) Spencer, who came from England to America about 1633 and settled at Haddam, Conn., of which he was one of the twenty-eight owners, about 1662, was several times a deputy to the general court of Hartford from Haddam, and served in King Philip's war in 1675. He is also descended from the Brainards and Seldens of Connecticut, and the Alstons of North Carolina. John Alston, the North Carolina progenitor, emigrated from England, and from him a numerous family is descended. Joseph John Alston, of Chatham county, N. C., was the grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Samuel Spencer Jackson, father of our subject, was the only son of Isaac Jackson, an alumnus of the University of North Carolina, a man of high literary attainments, a lawyer and lay reader in St. Bartholomew Protestant Episcopal Church of Pittsboro, Chatham county, N. C. Samuel Spencer Jackson, his son, was grad-

uated with honors at the University of North Carolina in 1854, where he subsequently served as tutor of Greek while studying law at the University under Hon. William H. Battle and later under Hon. Samuel Phillips. In 1860 he resigned as tutor and removed to Asheboro, N. C., and there practiced law, at the same time serving as clerk and master of equity for Randolph county. He succeeded to the law practice of his father-in-law, Jonathan Worth, who removed from Asheboro to Raleigh, the state capitol, to assume his duties as treasurer of the state, to which he was elected in 1863-65, and in 1866-68 elected governor of North Carolina. In 1865, Mr. Jackson was elected a member of the convention which had been called by the president of the United States, to restore the state to its former relations, and after adjourning to the fourth Thursday of May, 1866, the convention passed ordinances repealing and declaring null and void the secession of May, 1861, abolishing slavery and invalidating all contracts made in furtherance of the late war. Mr. Jackson was a man of very attractive personality. In nature he was genial and kind, and in all his professional acts and social relations his bearing was courteous and honorable. He was married, Dec. 25, 1856, to Elvira Evelyn, daughter of Gov. Jonathan Worth, of North Carolina, and they had one child, a son, Herbert Worth Jackson, graduate of the University of North Carolina, class of 1886, penal clerk N. C. treasury department, 1888-90, was an officer in the Commercial National Bank of Raleigh, N. C., from 1890 to 1909. In Nov., 1909, he removed to Richmond, Va., and was elected president of the Virginia Trust Co., the oldest fiduciary trust company in the South. Mrs. Jackson (now Mrs. Moffitt) still survives, and is president of the Mathew Fontaine Maury Association; also the Virginia Society of Colonial Dames; the North Carolina Society Daughters of the Revolution; honorary member Daughters of 1812; member of the Archaeological Institute of America, Virginia Branch; member North Carolina Historical Society; of George Washington Memorial Association; North Carolina Peace Society; honorary life president of the North Carolina Daughters of the Confederacy; and for the past ten years biographical editor of the "North Carolina Booklet." Samuel Spencer Jackson died at Whiteville, N. C., while on a visit to his brother, Dr. Isaac Jackson, March 5, 1875.

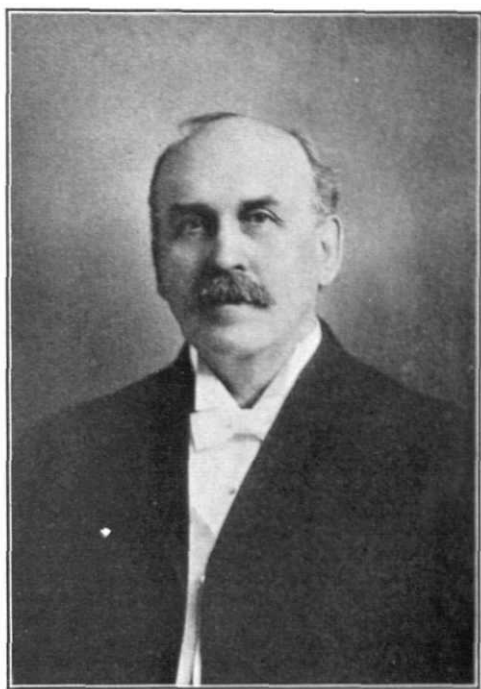
ABRAMS, Hiram, financier, producer and distributor of photoplays, was born in Portland, Me., Feb. 22, 1878, son of Isaac and Dora (Marcus) Abrams, and grandson of Isaac Abrams, who came from Russia and settled in Portland, Me., in 1857. His father was engaged in the real estate business and previously in the retail dry goods business in Portland. Hiram Abrams was educated in the public schools of Portland, and at sixteen years of age became a traveling salesman for a large house manufacturing ladies' garments. When the Victor Talking Machine Co. began its advertising and sales campaign he joined their New England sales force, later becoming its Portland jobber. After selling out this franchise he became a salesman for M. Steinert & Sons, music publishers. While here he became interested in providing slides for theatres, making arrangements with a New York manufacturer, and entered the slide business in a store adjoining that of the Steinert company. It was not long before he was doing business with Walter E. Greene, former president of Arcraft Pictures Corporation, and Vice-president of

Famous Players-Lasky Corporation, but then president of the film exchange in Portland which bore his name. In 1907, three months after he had embarked upon the slide enterprise, Mr. Abrams became identified with Mr. Greene in the film exchange. This partnership developed into a broad extension of activities in the merchandising of motion picture film in New England. Offices were opened in Portland, Boston and New Haven, and several thousand theatres were served in the territory. In 1914, on the formation of Paramount Pictures Corporation, the principal film exchanges throughout the country consolidated. Mr. Abrams then assumed control of the New England distribution, and his election in 1916 to the presidency of Paramount Pictures Corporation was only a natural step forward in its meteoric progress. Thus it was that a chance inquiry led him into the motion picture industry, in which field he stands today the most conspicuous single personality and creative force, having brought about in 1919 the formation of the United Artists Corporation, known as the "Big Four," for the distribution of the productions of Mary Pickford, Charlie Chaplin, Douglas Fairbanks and D. W. Griffith. Possessed of a robust physique, of charming manners, and easy of approach, he is one who impresses all who come within the circle of his influence as a leader of men. By appointment of the mayor of New York city and of the governor of the state of New York he has served on a number of important committees, and was at one time active in the National Association of the Motion Picture Industry. Mr. Abrams' favorite diversion is baseball, and in 1917 he purchased the Portland franchise of the Eastern League in order that his home town might continue its place in the baseball world. He is a member of the Friars Club, Progressive Club of New York city, Young Men's Hebrew Association (New York city), Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Masonic fraternity. He was married July 1, 1904, to Florence Hamilton, daughter of George Hamilton of Toronto, Canada, and has one daughter, Grace Abrams.

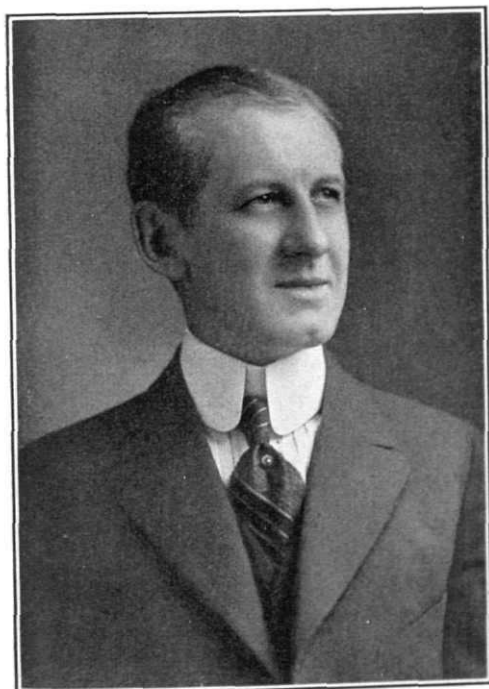
DE LANO, Clayton Harris, manufacturer, was born at Ticonderoga, N. Y., Feb. 8, 1836, son of Benjamin Phelps and Amanda (Harris) De Lano, and a descendant of Philip De Lano, who came to this country from Leyden, Holland, and settled at Plymouth and then at Duxbury, Mass., on a farm adjoining John Alden's (q.v.); he was a lieutenant under Capt. Miles Standish (q.v.), and took part in the Pequot war; from him and his wife, Hester Dewsbury, the line descends through their son, Lieut. Jonathan, and his wife, Mercy Warren; their son, Jonathan, and his wife, Amy Hatch; their son, Nathan, and his wife, ———; their son, Abisha, a soldier in the revolutionary war, and his wife, Hannah Hovey; and their son, Nathan, a lieutenant of cavalry in the battle of Plattsburg, and his wife, Lois Robinson, who were the grandparents of the subject. His father, an extensive farmer, was the owner of five farms, and was first cousin of Hon. Columbus De Lano (q.v.), secretary of the interior, under Pres. Grant. Clayton Harris De Lano was educated in public schools of his native town, and the Fort Edward (N. Y.) Collegiate Institute. He studied law for a period in the office of Hand & Hale, Elizabethtown, N. Y. Then he entered the department of law of the New York State Univer-



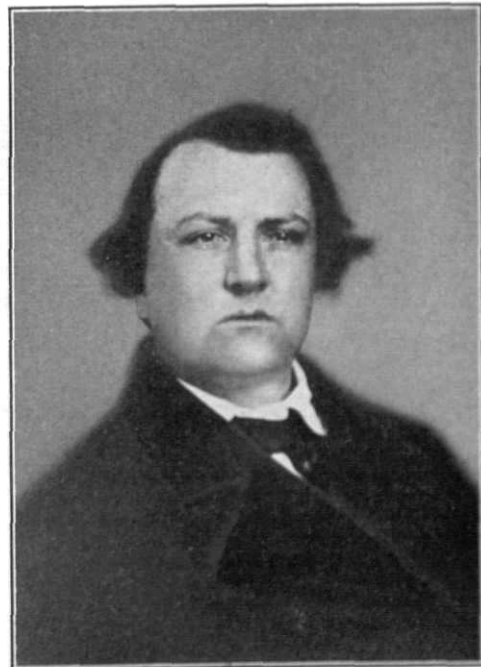
ROBERT S. TAYLOR



PRICE C. CLAFLIN



FREDERICK W. SAGER



SAMUEL S. JACKSON