

Dr. Granville Revere Lewis

The following is an obituary, copied from the Confederate Veteran. My additions are in italics and bold type.

“Dr. Granville Revere Lewis was born May 18, 1835, in Philadelphia, where his father, Dr. Zachary Lewis, was practicing his profession and was at the same time Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Jefferson Medical College. *(His mother was Maria Louisa Adelaide Mylliott Ste. De Croix Gernon Clopton, daughter of the Honorable John Clopton, a Congressman from Virginia.)*

Dr. Lewis received his early education in King and Queen County. He later attended the Richmond College, and graduated in medicine from the University of Maryland. In 1861, he joined the Charlotte Cavalry, and continued in active service with this company until late in the year, when he was detailed to act as assistant surgeon in the army. In 1862, he was commissioned as a surgeon, and served in the medical corps until the close of the war. Surgeon Lewis was always at his post of duty, exposed to danger, and was wounded in one of the engagements near Petersburg. This, however, he never spoke of even to his intimate friends. He never surrendered, but after Johnson surrendered, he was paroled in Halifax County.

Dr. Lewis was married in 1866 to Miss Nancy Ellyson Williams. In 1873, he moved to Lynchburg, where he was made Superintendent of the Miller Orphan Asylum, a position he filled with benevolence and ability for nearly forty years, the institution being a lasting monument to him in the hearts of the thousands of friends he made in the community and among the orphan children in the asylum to whom he had. In 1911, he was paralyzed, and after that his active life and usefulness were over. In 1912, he resigned the trust and relinquished the position he had so ably filled.



Dr. Lewis was a charter member of the Garland-Rhodes Confederate Camp, and was always faithful and prompt in the fulfilling of every duty and pleasure pertaining to membership. For many years he was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and was also a zealous Mason. For many years he had been a subscriber to the CONFEDERATE VETERAN, and was one of its most faithful and interested readers. He was a remarkably handsome man, and even after disease and old age had come to him his eyes never lost their brightness nor his face its winning smile.

He died on the night of March 27, 1913, **at the age of 77**, and the love in which he was held by the community was evidenced by the throng that assembled at St. Paul's Church to show their last token of respect. His body was deposited in the family lot at Spring Hill, the beautiful services of his church and brother Masons, with the last rites of the Garland-Rhodes Camp, being used, and his newly made grave was covered by a great mound of flowers gathered by the asylum children from the beautiful ground so long cultivated under his care."



It was probably in his blood to become the Superintendent of the Miller Orphan's Asylum. After all, his father, Dr. Zachary Lewis established the Croton Female Seminary in King and Queen County, Virginia. His wife, Maria L. Adelaide, assisted in operating the school. The school was forced to shut down during the Civil War.

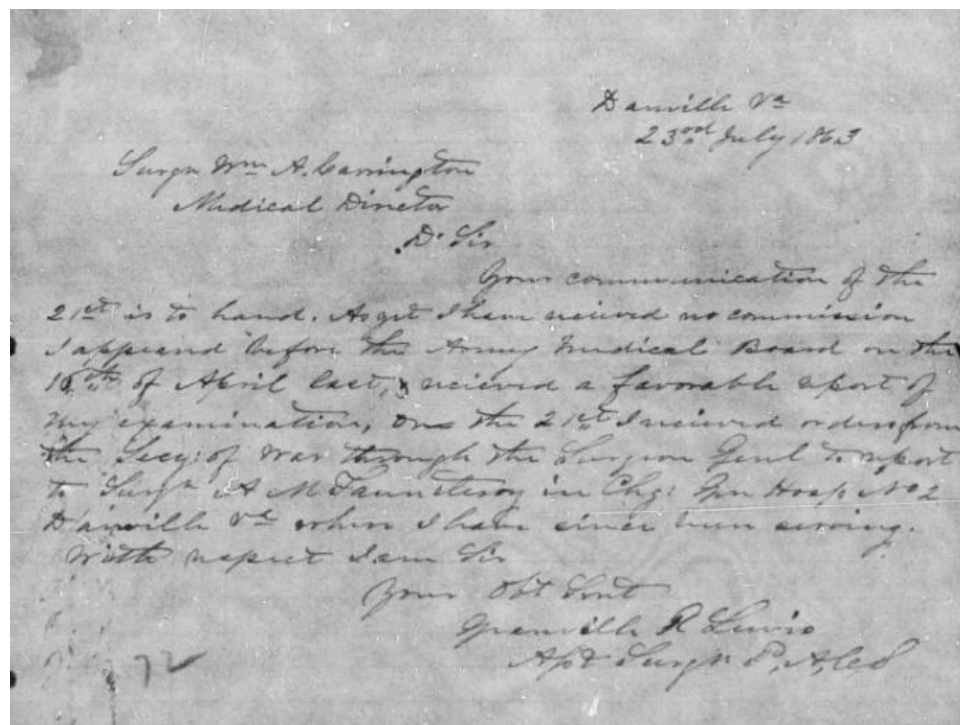
His father, Dr. Zachary Lewis, passed away in King and Queen County, VA on June 5, 1859, just three years after Dr. Granville Lewis received his medical degree. His mother, Maria L. Adelaide, passed away January 1, 1869, ten years later. Dr. Lewis practiced medicine in the Northern District of Virginia in Halifax County. At the time, he lived with the Clement M. Adkisson family, as indexed in the 1860 Census.

He enlisted in the army as a Private in the Charlotte Cavalry. This unit subsequently became the Co. B 14th VA Cavalry. He was later detailed as an Assistant Surgeon, in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States, by order of Dr. Green, Medical Director, Monterey, VA.

It seems he might have had a difficult time because on March 12, 1863, he was on detail, 3rd division, Hospital No. 2, Danville, VA and on April 2, 1863, he was a patient in General Hospital #2, Richmond, VA. His diagnosis was "debilitas" or weakness. He was back on detail in Danville by April 7, 1863

though. There are several "orders for assignment of duty" between April 21, 1863 and August 1, 1863. On July 23, 1863, Dr. Lewis pens a communication to the Medical Director William A Carrington.

In a letter written from Danville, VA, to Medical Director William A. Carrington, "Dr Sir, Your communication of the 21st is to hand. As yet I have received no commission. I appeared before the Army Medical Board on the 16th of April last, received a favorable report of my examination. On the 21st I received orders from the Secy of War through the Surgeon Genl to report to Surgn A. M. Fauntleroy in Chge, Gen Hosp No 2 Danville, Va, where I have since been serving. With respect I am Sir, Your Obt Servt, Granville R Lewis, Asst Surgn P. A. C. S. "

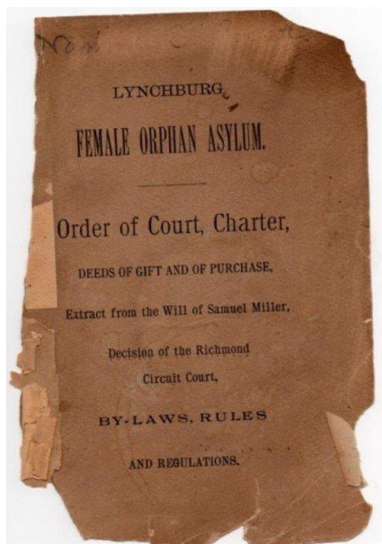


On August 1, 1863, he was ordered to report to Surgeon Fauntleroy at General Hospital #2, Danville, VA, for assignment to duty. Just a few months later on, November 5, 1863, he was Assistant Surgeon at Camp Pickett, near Petersburg, VA. On November 20, 1863, he was Asst. Surgeon, Coit's Artillery Battalion, Camp Hood. (This camp was probably between Petersburg, VA and Drewry's Bluff on the James River. Coit's Artillery Battalion was commanded by James Campbell Coit, a civil engineer from South Carolina.)

On January 1, 1864, he applied for a transfer and was sent from the field to a hospital and confirmed as Asst. Surgeon from VA by the Confederate States Senate. However, in April of 1864, he was sent back to Coit's Artillery Battalion, near Weldon, NC. On August 26, 1864, he was admitted as a patient to General Hospital #4 in Richmond with a diagnosis of "Febris Remittens", which is a fluctuating fever. By September 4th, he was back on duty as Asst. Surgeon for Coit's Artillery Battalion. He moved from that battalion to Branch Battalion Artillery and then back again. On October 26, 1864, he was again admitted as a patient to the hospital for fevers. He was back on duty at Coit's Artillery Battalion on November 13, 1864.

Shortly afterward he was wounded near Petersburg, VA and was then assigned to duty on December 10, 1864, at General Hospital, Camp Winder, Richmond, VA. In 1865, he was paroled by the U. S. Army to Halifax, VA.

The Civil War was over and reconstruction began. Dr. Granville Revere Lewis and his family moved to Lynchburg, VA and he became the Superintendent of the Miller Orphan Asylum. The Asylum eventually became the Miller Home for Girls and is still in operation, meeting the needs of a diverse population of girls.



Female Orphan Asylum booklet

Gift of the Junior League of Lynchburg, X-778

In 1875, the estate of wealthy Samuel Miller (1792-1869) provided for the Lynchburg Female Orphan Asylum a trust of \$151,500 and forty-six acres of land for a building site. He made his money in wise investments in tobacco, railroads, and as a merchant. Since 1875, the Miller Home has cared for more than 1000 girls. The first four story building housed 100 girls at a time. The Miller Orphanage, now known as the Miller Home for Girls, opened in 1875 in the area where the Plaza stands today on Memorial Avenue. Although the home has moved, the Miller Home remains operational today. It had extensive, planted fields, green houses and gardens. In 1946, The Lynchburg Female Orphan Asylum sold large tracts of land to the City of Lynchburg to defray costs. E. C. Glass opened on 50 of the acres in 1953.



Dr. Granville Revere Lewis

Dr. Granville Revere Lewis had seven children of his own with his wife Nancy Ellyson Williams, the daughter of Dr. Thomas Jasper Williams and Mary Selden Leigh, Granddaughter of Judge William Leigh.

John Zachary Lewis died young.

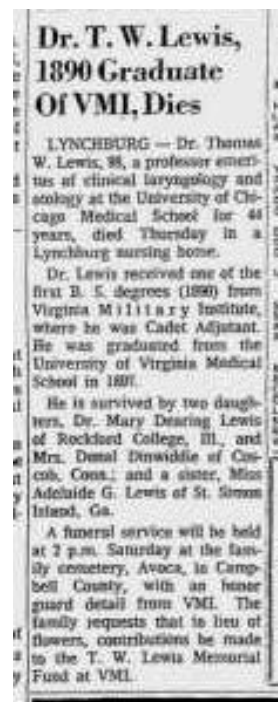
Mary Evelyn Lewis lived until 1954 but never married, nor did Adelaide Gernon Lewis but she lived until 1977 at the age of 96. More on her later because she was the youngest and lived the longest. Both sisters could sing and Adelaide was also a famous opera singer!

Dr. Thomas Williams Lewis was also his son and he married Mary Browning Fauntleroy. He lived until 1967 and had two daughters, Mary Dearing Lewis, PhD., and Nancy Cary Lewis. I can't find where either daughter ever had any children. There are no other children that carried on the line except for Granville Revere Lewis Jr from what I can tell in the records. He is my Great Grandfather and I have just a little about him later.



Dr. Thomas W. Lewis

Mary Browning Fauntleroy

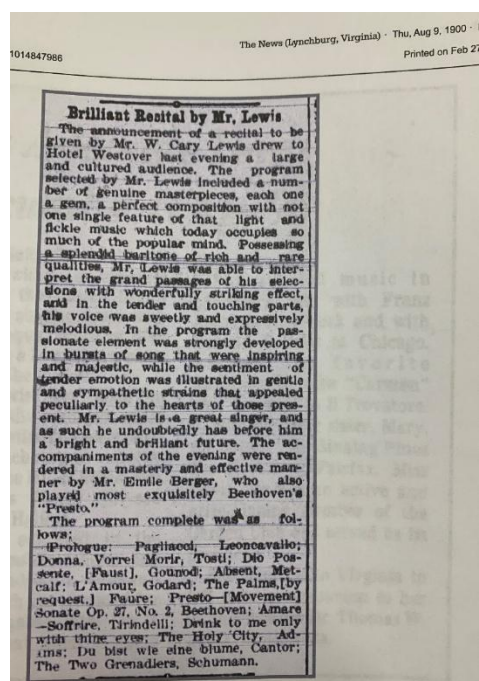


For now, back to Adelaide Gernon Lewis, the youngest child of Dr. Granville Revere Lewis and Nancy Ellyson Williams Lewis. She was educated in the Lynchburg public schools and at Randolph-Macon Woman's College, which she attended for six years, going first as a special student when 14 years old. She studied music in Lynchburg then with Franz Arens in New York and with Herman DeVries in Chicago. Among her favorite performances were "Carmen" and "Azucena" in *Il Trovatore*.

With her older sister, Mary, she opened "The Singing Pines Tea Room" in Fairfax. She was also an active and prize-winning member of the Garden Club and served as its president. After World War II, she lived on St. Simons Island, GA, for some 20 years before returning to Virginia in 1962 to become a companion to her brother Dr. Thomas W. Lewis.

She passed away on June 2, 1977 in a Lynchburg nursing home at the age of 96. She is buried at Spring Hill Cemetery.

Another son was William Bernard Lewis who married Ella Ferme Davis. He passed in 1960.



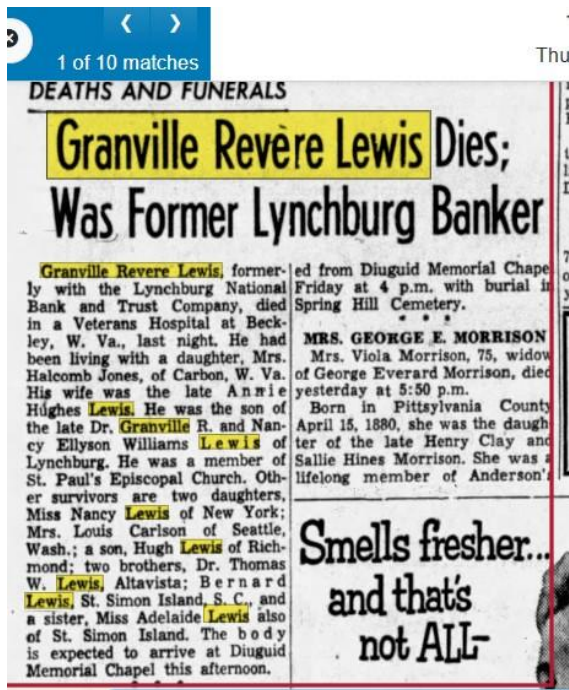
Another son, Mr. W. Cary Lewis, was also a well-known singer. There are several newspaper clippings telling of his visits to Lynchburg from his home in Chicago. He visited his parents frequently and gave vocal recitals, which were highly appreciated by the music lovers of Lynchburg. He possessed a strong, rich voice and his repertoire of selections includes many of the best known and greatest of compositions.

So, it would seem that at least three of Dr. Granville Revere Lewis's children were great singers! Perhaps they sang a lot while they grew up at the Miller Orphan Asylum. It is nice to know that my Great, Great Aunts and Uncles were so talented! I never knew we had any singers in the family. And so many doctors, judges, and pastors!

So, back to my Great Grandfather, Granville Revere Lewis Jr and his wife, Annie Elizabeth Hughes. I don't know much about them but I do have their pictures. He was a banker and at one time was an assistant cashier. He was highly regarded in the community from newspaper reports. He married Annie Elizabeth Hughes. They were the parents of my Grandfather, the one who killed himself. I wonder why they didn't help him or if they did anything to hurt him in some way. I guess I'll never know, this side of heaven and it really doesn't matter but I wonder...



Granville Revere and Annie Elizabeth Lewis



Dr. Granville Revere Lewis and wife, Nancy Ellyson Williams Lewis

My Great, Great, Grandmother, Nancy Ellyson Williams Lewis was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She, my Great Aunt Becky and Great Aunt Nan were all members, long ago before I knew anything about my family heritage. Learning about my ancestors and how much they relied on their Faith is encouraging.

Believers in Christ maintain the Blood Trail of Faith along the Journey Through Time...

These are the people that I came from. I am not just a product of my lifetime, a discarded daughter. I am the culmination of many lifetimes and honoring them, by acknowledgement, is a healing endeavor.

Getting in touch with this heritage from long ago has helped me so much. I realize it won't make much sense to everyone but given my personal history, it matters to me, and I have peace because God put the desire in my heart to study it.

Sadly, my grandfather, Granville Revere Lewis III is not even listed in his father's obituary as preceding him in death. Both of my grandparents, Granville Revere Lewis Jr. and Annie Elizabeth Hughes die within five years of my grandfather's suicide.

It makes me wonder why he was not listed by his surviving siblings. There is a mystery to solve because it seems that someone has claimed to be Granville Revere Lewis 4th but isn't.

There are discrepancies, it seems, as a Social Security claim was made to insert someone as GRL4, with multiple name changes and incorrect dates.



There is a reason why genealogies are kept; why history and heritage are acknowledged throughout time. The Bible is full of genealogies to help us understand the connections between the people and places, to see the Hand of God through time and how He uses whom He will, to achieve His Purposes.

I believe it is so that we can appreciate who and where we come from, not out of pride or arrogance, but out of humility so that we can learn from the lives of our ancestors and not repeat the mistakes of the past. So that we can release the generational trauma stored up in our DNA and elevate our consciousness to the Healing Power of God. So that we are no longer burdened down with the sorrows of this world; we are free to abide in the ever-present nature of Jesus Christ. We can release all blame and shame and be One with Him, living in agreement with His will for our lives, and thriving as He fills our hearts with His Purpose.