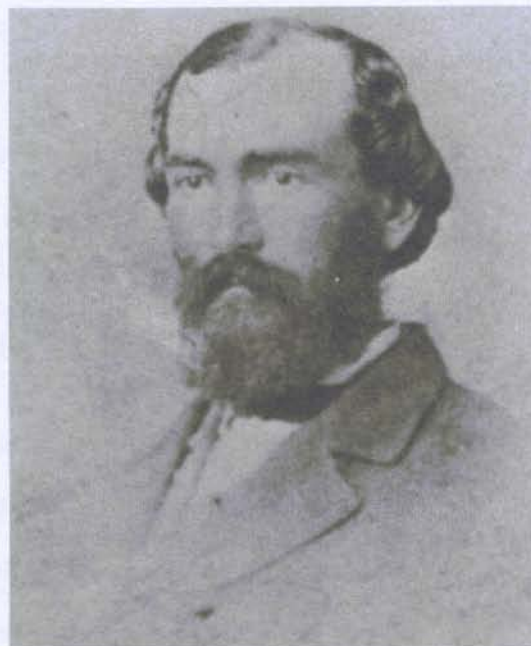




Four Chimney House: Centreville, Virginia; owned by Alexander Spottswood Grigsby, HDQ of Gen. Johnston, March 1862; by G. N. Barward, Photo No. 90-CM-303, National Archives.

## ALEXANDER SPOTTSWOOD GRIGSBY

by Elizabeth Osenbaugh



Alexander Spottswood Grigsby owned the farm in which the Grigsby Hill skirmish during the first battle of Bull Run or Manassas was fought. He also owned the Four Cimney or Grigsby House in nearby Centreville, Virginia, which may have been the Confederate headquarters between the first and second battles of Bull Run. A.S. at one time also owned Pilgrim's Rest, a house near Nokesville, Virginia, which is listed on the Historical American Buildings Survey.

Alexander was born in Virginia about 1802. He first appears in Fairfax County in the 1830 census. I believe that his parents were Enoch Grigsby, a son of Samuel and Anne Grigsby, and Elizabeth de Movelle Maddox, daughter of Thomas Maddox. He married Caroline M. Garrard.

Alexander was a merchant in Centreville from 1830 to 1860. He moved to Campbell County about 1866 and is listed there in 1870 and 1880. He served in the Virginia House of Representatives.

The children of Alexander and Caroline were:

(1) John Randolph Grigsby (b. 1832 Fairfax Co., Va. - d. 1868, Clarke Co., Va.) -- John R., my great-grandfather, married Elizabeth Morgan Alexander, daughter of William Christopher Alexander and Eliza Morgan, in 1858 in Clarke County. (Elizabeth or Bettie graduated from the Virginia Female Institute at Staunton in 1858 with the daughters of Robert E. Lee.) John R. and Bettie had five sons, of whom two, John A.T. and J. Ralph, left descendents. John R. was a merchant at White Post, Virginia. Hilda Grigsby Shimmek has his account books from 1860 to 1865, which include sales to his brothers and to Henry Newton Grigsby, also a resident of Clarke County.

(2) Alexander S., Jr. (b. ca 1836)

(3) Tasca M. (b. ca 1838)

(4) Henry (b. ca 1840)

(5) Preston or P. Clay (b. ca 1844) Clay was a teacher in Lynchburg, Va. Although there are accounts that he moved to Texas, his will is recorded in Campbell County, Va., in 1887.

(6) Winfield Scott (b. ca 1846)

(7) Caroline E. or Carrie (b. ca 1848, Centreville - d. Aug. 1932, Washington, D.C.) Carrie married R.G. Fitzhugh and lived in Upperville and Pulaski, Va. She was survived by 10 children.

(8) Mary Alice, Mary D., or Dora (b. 6 Sept. 1853, Fairfax Co., Va.) m. \_\_\_\_\_ Barksdale.

(9) Cornelia or Coralie (b. ca. 1851) m. \_\_\_\_\_ McDaniel.

The date of Alexander's death is unknown. Caroline's estate account was recorded in Campbel County on 4 April 1900. Listed as heirs were Carrie, Dora, Winfield Scott, and the assignee of John R. Grigsby.

Further information about Alexander S. Grigsby and Four Chimney House can be found in Eugenia B. Smith, Centreville, Virginia, Its History and Architecture (Fairfax County Office of Comprehensive Planning 1978), and Ruth Hairston Early, Campbell Chronicles and Family Sketches (Baltimore Regional Publishing Co. 1978) (orig. pub. 1927), p. 150.