DAVID DuBOSE GAILLARD
David DuBose Gaillard

A Memorial

COMPiled AND PUBLISHED BY THE THIRD
UNITED STATES VOLUNTEER
ENGINEERS

SAINT LOUIS
1916
In Loving Memory of
Our Regimental Commander in the Spanish War
and His Noble Wife

Third U.S. Volunteer Engineers
Foreword

At the annual meeting of the Third United States Volunteer Engineers held in St. Louis in May, 1914, it was voted to publish a memorial of Col. David DuBose Gaillard, who had been their regimental commander in the Spanish War. The Committee appointed to discharge this task collected, insofar as was possible, the various articles and tributes that had appeared in print following Col. Gaillard's death and received many letters from men who had been associated with Col. Gaillard in his lifetime.

The Committee was fortunate in securing the assistance of Miss Ellen Bates of St. Louis, niece of General John C. Bates, in editing the material secured. The constant aid and advice rendered by Dr. A. E. Bostwick, Public Librarian of St. Louis, from the inception of the undertaking to the reading of the final proof, has been invaluable. The kindly co-operation of Mrs. Gaillard was a very great aid to the Committee at each Stage of the work. The Committee begs to acknowledge the cordial assistance rendered by each of the officers and associates whose contributions appear in the following pages.

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DAVID DuBOSE GAILLARD

A Brief Sketch of His Life
. . . "Peace hath her victories
No less renown'd than War" . .

—Milton, "Sonnet to the Lord General Cromwell"
DAVID DuBOSE GAILLARD

That Col. David DuBose Gaillard should have chosen a career in the service of his country is but the logical result of his ancestry. The best traditions America has to give her sons—pride of service and great abilities and success in achievement—were his birthright.

ANCESTRY

Colonel Gaillard comes of distinguished ancestry, both Huguenot and English.

In the records of the family in France we see displayed the same courage and fidelity to lofty ideals that they have shown here.

In the Thirteenth Century the name of one ancestor is found, with other knights of Languedoc, enrolled in the catalogue as "Defenders of the Faith" under Raymond, Comte de Toulouse, against Simon de Montfort, emissary of Pope Honorius.

Froissart gives John Gaillard as at the battle of the Soissons on the Aisne in 1363. In 1616 another Gaillard commanded a ship of the Protestant Party in a battle off the mouth of the Charente. He was taken prisoner, and refusing to recant was conducted to Bordeaux and there "broken on the wheel."
After the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 many Huguenots for "conscience sake" fled from France, and among those on the "Liste" we find these two of Colonel Gaillard's ancestors:

"Pierre Gaillard, né a Cherveux en Poitou, fils de Pierre Gaillard et de Jacquette Jolain" and

"Isaac DuBose, de Dieppe en Normandie, fils de Louis DuBose et de sa femme Anne."

They came in 1686 to the English Province of South Carolina and settled in the Santee Country. To show their allegiance to their new country, they became English subjects; many even translated their names, which soon were to be found amongst the most influential in the Colony.

Three of Colonel Gaillard's ancestors served in Francis Marion's Brigade as officers during the Revolutionary War—his great-great-great-grandfathers, Gen. Richard Richardson and Capt. Peter Gaillard of the Rocks, and his great-great-grandfather, Samuel DuBose of Santee, who was Marion's adjutant.

Col. Richard Richardson, his great-great-grandfather, a son of Gen. Richard Richardson, served in the regular army.

A collateral ancestor, John Gaillard, was from 1804 to 1826 in the United States Senate. He was five times elected to the Senate, presiding over that body for fourteen years. Nine times he was elected president pro tempore, and three times he filled vacancies caused by the deaths of Gerry and Clinton and the absence of Tompkins. His service terminated only with his death.

Theodore Gaillard, brother of John Gaillard, was educated in England. In 1808 he was made Judge
THE GAillard ARMS
of the Courts of Chancery, General Sessions and Common Pleas, and was Speaker of the House of South Carolina.

Colonel Gaillard was the fifth of his name to enter West Point.*

During the Civil War Colonel Gaillard's father and six uncles gave their services to their State, in the Confederate Cause.†

On his mother's side his ancestry is equally distinguished, going back to the Huguenot emigré, Isaac DuBose, on the paternal side, and to the Richardsons on the maternal.

Gen. Richard Richardson, mentioned above, his great-great-great-grandfather, was an officer under the British in the Colonial service and did such gallant service in the Cherokee wars in 1760-61 that in the South Carolina Gazette, Sept. 25, 1762, we find:

1. Daniel S. Gaillard, admitted in 1817, married while on leave, and was dropped Feb. 28, 1818.
2. Warren Gaillard, admitted in 1817, graduated in 1821 and died in Pensacola while on duty.
3. Daniel W. Gaillard, admitted in 1817, did not graduate.
read that as a token of gratitude the citizens of St. Mark's Parish (afterward Clarendon, Colonel Gaillard's birthplace) presented to him a handsome service of plate.

He was a member of the Provincial Congress and of the Legislative Council in 1775.

He served under Francis Marion, reaching the rank of brigadier general during the Revolution, leading many successful expeditions against the Tories and British. In the latter part of the war he was taken prisoner and carried to Charleston. His influence was so great that Lord Cornwallis, fearing his opposition, proposed to him in the presence of his friends and family that he either unite himself to the Royal Standard with carte blanche as to titles, offices and other gifts of the Crown, or submit to the alternative of close confinement. His reply is authentically reported to have been:

"I have from the best convictions of my mind embarked in a cause which I consider righteous and just. I have knowingly and willingly staked my life, family and property on the issue. I am well prepared to suffer or to triumph with it, but I would prefer a thousand deaths rather than to betray my country or to deceive my friends."

The threatened alternative was rigorously enforced, until with shattered health and death very near, he was allowed to return home to die. After interment the British General Tarleton had his body exhumed, his pretext being that he wished to examine the face of a man of so determined a character.

His son, Richard Richardson, was in 1776 made a captain in the Regular Army, serving under Col.
Thomas Sumter, and was promoted to a colonelcy later for "meritorious service." Colonel Richardson's wife, Dorcas Neilson Richardson, Colonel Gaillard's great-great-grandmother, was noted for her fearless bravery and patriotism, and is mentioned among Mrs. Ellet's "Noted Women of the Revolution." Among their descendants have been three Governors Richardson and three Governors Manning of South Carolina.

This was the ancestry of "Gaillard of Culebra," this inheritance of bravery, physical and moral, lofty ideals, with an unswerving devotion to duty, whether it lay on the winning or losing side.

BOYHOOD

David DuBose Gaillard, son of Samuel Isaac and Susan Richardson DuBose Gaillard, was born at Fulton P. O., Sumter County, South Carolina, the summer home of his parents, September 4, 1859.

Until 1872, with his parents and sisters, he lived with his grandfather, David St. Pierre DuBose, at his home in Clarendon. The fine character and high ideals of his grandfather served as an inspiration to him, and he ever held his memory dear, naming his only son "David St. Pierre," in his honor:

The school there being very poor, in 1872 he left Clarendon and went to Winnsboro, Fairfield County, where he lived with his grandmother, Mrs. David Gaillard, and for three years attended Mount Zion institute. But his family, like many others, had lost their all for their loyalty to the Lost Cause, and in that pitiful struggle with poverty, which those early years of '70 brought to the Southern people,
it became necessary for him to do something for himself.

His high sense of duty, already developed, impelled him to accept whatever he could get, which was a position as clerk in the general store of Fleming McMaster.

There early and late he worked, doing whatever there was to be done, always with the same accuracy, zeal, light-heartedness and efficiency which he has shown in his later achievements.

One of the leading public men in South Carolina at that time was R. Means Davis (who was in later years to become Colonel Gaillard’s brother-in-law). A lawyer by profession, his interest in restoring educational advantages to the children of the stricken state was so great that he accepted the position of principal of Mt. Zion Institute in Winnsboro. He knew and was deeply interested in young Gaillard’s struggles and ambitions.

Professor Davis’s younger brother, Henry, now Col. H. C. Davis, Artillery Corps, U. S. A., in 1878 had successfully passed the examinations to West Point. The following year, learning of a competitive examination that was to be held for a West Point vacancy from the Congressional district of Hon. J. S. Richardson (Sumter), Professor Davis strongly advised young Gaillard to try for the appointment. The boy, needing no urging, gladly took out his neglected but not forgotten books.

His mind was brilliant, taking in knowledge “in the whole” and seemingly already assimilated, so that when the examination was held under Professor Leland, a West Pointer, and one-time professor at the Charleston, S. C., Citadel, he easily won.
Soon a cloud appeared on the horizon of his hopes, for someone had raised the question of his eligibility for appointment from Sumter, since he lived in Fairfield.

This question was taken up by the law firm of H. A. Gaillard and R. Means Davis. They wrote to Colonel Richardson, who had cancelled the appointment, but he was not convinced. Then R. Means Davis wrote to Robert T. Lincoln, Secretary of War, and immediately came the reply that the minor son takes the residence of the father. Convinced, Colonel Richardson renewed the appointment and young Gaillard left the store and went seriously to work on his studies. His old-time friend, Prof. R. Means Davis, now principal of Mount Zion, assisted him in every way, even letting him teach some of the classes, laughingly saying there was no better way of studying geography and history than by teaching them. One of his classes was "B" third, made up of all the incorrigibles and ineligibles of "A" third.

Later he left Winnsboro, and with money saved from his slender salary as a clerk, he entered a preparatory school near West Point, at Highland Falls. These two young men from South Carolina, Davis and Gaillard, were among the first native Southerners to enter West Point after the Civil War.

Gaillard successfully passed the entrance examinations at West Point, and entered as cadet in September, 1880, although handicapped by lack of preparation. Nevertheless, he was graduated No. 5 in a class of 31, which is said to have been one of the most brilliant classes ever graduated from the Point.
Gaillard, who was tall and slender, and his roommate, W. L. Sibert of Alabama, who was a giant, were known by their classmates as "David and Goliath." His own forename thus became also a very appropriate nickname. "David" and "Goliath" met later in Panama, as members of the Commission.

OFFICER IN THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Gaillard was commissioned Second Lieutenant of Engineers on September 15, 1884.

His first duty as a commissioned officer was in the Service School of Engineering at Willets Point, N. Y., graduating in 1887. From the Engineering School he was sent to Florida on river and harbor work, and then, but seven years out of West Point, he was appointed a member of the International Commission for the establishment of the boundary between the United States and Mexico.

In 1887 he was married to Miss Katherine Ross Davis of Columbia, South Carolina, sister of Prof. R. Means Davis, the friend and adviser who had been so potent in shaping his career for West Point and the Army. A son, David St. Pierre Gaillard, now an electrical engineer, was born January 25, 1890.

A brief return to regular duty in connection with the defenses of Fortress Monroe was followed by an assignment in charge of the Washington Aqueduct and local water supply of the City of Washington. The Department of State, mindful of the young engineer's Mexican work, again borrowed him for service, this time in Alaska, upon the survey of the Portland Channel, a mission of international significance.
When the Spanish-American War began in 1898, Colonel Gaillard, then a Captain of Engineers, at the request of General James F. Wade, was assigned April 28 to duty as Chief Engineer on his staff. At that time it was thought that General Wade would lead the expeditionary forces to Cuba. A different plan, however, was finally adopted, and General Shafter was placed in command of the expedition. Captain Gaillard was with the forces at Tampa during those trying days of uncertainty, when the troops were embarking one day, in anticipation of immediate sailing, and disembarking the next, until, on June 7, 1898, he was appointed Colonel of the Third Regiment of United States Volunteer Engineers. Four days later he accepted the appointment and immediately began the difficult task of securing officers and men of the requisite skill and ability for a regiment of this character. So well were his plans laid that barely a month elapsed before the regiment, whose members were recruited largely from the South, was mustered into service at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. After several weeks of active military and engineering training at various camps in the United States, the regiment was sent to Cuba with the army of occupation. One battalion went to each of the cities of Cienfuegos, Pinar del Rio and Matanzas, and rendered services of a high order in a great variety of engineering fields, civil, mechanical, sanitary and hydraulic. Returning to the United States via Savannah, the regiment was mustered out at Fort McPherson, Ga., May 17, 1899.
The regiment possesses a very unusual record. The standard achieved by the commanding officer in developing this body of men is indicated by Gen. J. C. Bates, who in 1905 wrote to Colonel Gaillard, "As Colonel of the Third Engineers, United States Volunteers, you commanded, if not the best, one of the best regiments I have ever known." More at length, Gen. James H. Wilson comments as follows: "The regiment was made up of fine officers, many of whom were well educated and experienced civil engineers, and of capable non-commissioned officers and men from similar callings in civil life. Under Colonel Gaillard the regiment soon took shape as one of the best in discipline, soldierly behavior and efficiency in the army. It served at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Lexington, Ky., at Macon, Ga., and afterwards in the Departments of Matanzas, Santa Clara and Pinar del Rio, Cuba, for nearly a year, during the whole of which time it rose steadily in the esteem of its commanding officers as a model of what an American Regiment should be. It rendered most valuable service at all times in surveys, scientific investigations, in local explorations and sanitary work at Matanzas, Cardenas, Colon, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos and Pinar del Rio for the lasting benefit of the nascent Cuban Republic.

"The behavior of this regiment and its officers was a constant example for the admiration and the emulation of the Cubans and to the credit of the intervening Government. It was absolutely free from rowdyism, drunkenness and the rude assumption of authority, which too frequently characterized the behavior of other regiments. It at no time assumed an attitude of domination or superiority,
but whether in camp, on the march or on leave, always behaved toward the Cubans as though it regarded them as friendly allies and in no sense as alien or hostile people. The force and benefit of this behavior can be fully appreciated when it is recalled that the Central Department of Matanzas and Santa Clara was not only the first to become thoroughly pacified, but remained so till the new Republic was organized, and that no influence did more to bring about this desirable and satisfactory condition of affairs than the worthy example of the Third U. S. Volunteer Engineers and its masterful and accomplished Colonel. It is the training and character imparted to such regiments by the West Point education and discipline that make them so creditable to our civilization at large and point so clearly to the true means of organizing a national reserve and of utilizing the military strength of the country in case of actual need.

"While the foreign service of this admirable regiment lasted less than a year, it will be a matter of pride to both its officers and men all their lives."

FURTHER ENGINEER WORK—"WAVE ACTION"

After the regiment was mustered out, Colonel Gaillard served for a time as assistant to the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, and in 1901 was placed in charge of river and harbor improvements on Lake Superior.

To this period belongs his research into the aspect of "Wave Action Upon Engineering Structures." Gen. James H. Wilson says of this work:

"Later, when stationed at Duluth, in charge of
river and harbor works in that region, he threw himself, heart and soul, into the questions before him, and soon found himself confronted with practical and scientific questions affecting the stability of engineer structures exposed to 'wave action,' that had never been satisfactorily solved.

"With characteristic determination and thoroughness he set about the investigation of wave action and the theories applicable thereto. He soon discovered that the investigations of his predecessors in that field had been far from exhaustive; that too much attention had been paid to deep-water waves and not enough to the effects of shallow waves; that the books in the reference libraries were confined in most cases to special questions or to particular phases of wave action, or were so widely scattered as to be practically inaccessible or far too complicated for working engineers.

"While the author claims but little credit for the mathematical treatment of the subject, the work simplifies the whole method of procedure and constitutes a distinct step forward. It is recognized by the profession everywhere as of the highest value in this complex branch of engineering. But this is not all. In his original investigations, Colonel Gaillard not only works out step by step the proper mathematical deductions, but also devised the original diaphragm dynamometer with gauges and clockwork mechanism which enabled him to make correct observations of wave action in all situations, and to record the same with certainty and precision.

"He finished his work upon this subject while stationed at Vancouver Barracks in 1903, and early in 1905 it was approved by the Chief of Engineers
and printed for the use of engineer officers. It is a monument to his mathematical talents and his ability as an engineer."

ON THE GENERAL STAFF

When the General Staff of the Army was established, Colonel Gaillard was detailed to that body and served successively in the Department of the Columbia, in the Northern Division, in the Army War College, and as Assistant Chief of Staff and Chief of Military Information Division in the second occupation of Cuba.

AT PANAMA

In 1907 the task of digging the Panama Canal was turned over to the Army. On March 22, Colonel Gaillard was appointed a member of the Isthmian Canal Commission. He served as supervisory engineer in charge of dredging harbors, of building the necessary breakwaters and all excavations in the Canal prism, except that incidental to lock and dam construction, April, 1907, to June, 1908; and as Division Engineer of the Central Division, including the famous Culebra Cut (now Gaillard Cut), from July, 1908, to the date of his death. A more extended account of his work on the Isthmus has been prepared by Col. Edgar Jadwin for this memoir, and will be found on pages 23-38, under the heading, "Gaillard as an Engineer."

Upon their arrival on the Isthmus in 1907, Colonel and Mrs. Gaillard at once established their home at Culebra, in the Canal Zone, and adapted themselves to their new environment. Mr. Edward B. Clark (a
classmate of Colonel Gaillard at West Point), writing in *The St. Louis Times*, October 6, 1913, during Colonel Gaillard’s illness, thus described their home:

“On the hill at Culebra stands the residence of Lieut.-Col. David DuB. Gaillard, the landslide conqueror and the digger of the great Culebra Cut. The jungle had been cut away when the engineer’s quarters were built. The place was as bare as the peak of an Arctic mountain. Under the directing care and the fine perception of Mrs. Gaillard, their home in a season or two was embowered in tropical growth, with a softened color scheme which I have never seen equaled.”

The world-wide interest in the great work attracted many visitors to the Isthmus. Engineers, artists, public officials, travelers from home and abroad, under Colonel Gaillard’s trained and kindly guidance, when his official and professional duties would permit, saw and understood the stupendous miracles that were slowly and surely being wrought on the Isthmus. Mrs. Gaillard was a charming hostess and many were the visitors who enjoyed the hospitality generously offered at their home; and the circle of their friends, thus widened, brought back to them a constant stream of delightful messages.

**ILLNESS AND DEATH**

Colonel Gaillard came to the United States in May, 1913, for a short vacation. He returned to Panama, sailing on the 26th of June, arriving there on July 2d. He finished his annual report and at-
tended to other matters relating to Canal work. His health, however, had begun to fail, and within the month he suffered a nervous breakdown. On July 15, Mrs. Gaillard, who had just arrived in Panama from the States, noticed that he was quite ill, and on July 26 he went into Ancon Hospital. On August 8, with Mrs. Gaillard, his son, Pierre, and Dr. Charles Mason, Colonel Gaillard sailed for the United States. The party arrived at New York on August 16 and went at once to the Henry Phipps Clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The physician there diagnosing an intercranial growth, he went September 1 to the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, where Doctor Harvey Cushing operated, but with no beneficial results. He returned to the Johns Hopkins Hospital October 1, and after three months of total unconsciousness, died there, December 5, 1913.