

Cumpy King's Lancaster Years:

Excerpt from William Tecumseh Sherman's Unpublished Autobiography

William Tecumseh Sherman was born on February 8, 1820, in Lancaster, Ohio. His parents were Charles Robert Sherman (1788-1829) and Mary Hoyt Sherman (1787-1852). Sherman had five earlier-born siblings and five later-born siblings.¹ In 1829, his father died, and young Cump was informally adopted by Lancaster neighbors, Thomas Ewing and Maria Boyle Ewing. In 1836, Sherman departed Lancaster to enroll at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Sherman's youth in Lancaster is discussed only briefly in his published Memoirs, in a first chapter added in the 1886 second edition. However, around 1868, Sherman had set down some more detailed recollections about his youth, in a manuscript intended solely for his children.² Although this material has been available to interested scholars, the full text apparently has never been published before. It is provided here to make readily available to all more information about Sherman's youth and a vivid picture of Lancaster as it was then.

Sherman's unpublished manuscript is held in the archives of the Ohio Historical Society (Mss. 57 William T. Sherman Papers, Autobiography of William T. Sherman; pages 1-13 are transcribed here). Permission to publish is gratefully acknowledged. This transcription attempts to be faithful to the substance and the informal feel of Sherman's text, but spellings are corrected, capitalizations altered, punctuation supplied, and paragraphs broken for ease of reading.

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Please send questions or comments to wmtcumseh@yahoo.com. This transcription has benefited from comments by Sherman biographer John F. Marszalek, Sherman: A Soldier's Passion for Order (1993), and Phyllis Kuhn, assistant curator of the Sherman House Museum.

* * *

Private

Several biographies have already been published of me. More or less correct but all as a matter of course devoted rather to later and more important parts of my life than to earlier events. As these may interest my children I propose when I have leisure, to recall from memory such matters as may occur, for them and them alone.

My memory recalls the year 1828, when I must have learned to write the date, being then

8 years old. We then lived in Lancaster, Ohio, in a frame building at the corner of the alley on Main Street.³ Old Mr Wright the Presbyterian clergyman lived on the same side the street across the alley in the same brick house which is now occupied by the Daughertys.⁴ Next him on the same side the street was Work & Reed's shoe shop – and next on the corner was old Mr Sturgeon.⁵ On the other side was tobacconist Young, then the brick house afterwards bought by Mr Reese, then Matlack's saddle & harness shop, and next on the corner was Mr Ewing – Opposite him the Garaghtys – below them Aunt Sumner & next them Weaver the carpenter.⁶ – Next old squire Stallsmith & next the Kings.⁷

My father was then Judge of the Supreme Court of Ohio & much of his time away from home. I can remember well his coming home as usual on horseback, when all the boys would run to meet him. Whoever got to him first had the privilege to ride his horse "Dick" back to the stable on the rear of the lot. I have a faint recollection that when about 6 years old I was the "first" and was put on the horse by Jim who was six years older than me.⁸ He put me on and struck the horse which started for the stable, whilst Jim ran through the house & lot to open the stable door. The horse got there first and got impatient and started for King's stable where he had formerly been kept. He went down the alley to Sturgeon's corner – then across the square to King's alley. There was no body there to let him in, so after a pause he went on to Weaver's and back towards our stable. At that time the alley at Weaver's was very steep and Dick went plunging down and threw me among a pile of stones. I was picked up insensible & carried into the house and had my face cut open on the right cheek. In due time of course I got over it, but the scar is strong on my face today.⁹

About that same period, a load of corn had been bought, and a man was carrying it in baskets from a wagon in the alley to the crib inside the stable. I got inside the crib and was

picking out the red ears, when my father came along and ordered me out. I got out but as soon as he was gone I was in again. But he happened there again and ordered me out in a tone that offended me extremely. I went to the house & brooded over it for some hours, and finally resolved to quit the house. Went up stairs & made a bundle of clothing and made for King's house, where I recounted my grievances and turned in with Bill King, about my age. There was no attempt to pursue or coax me back. I went to school as usual from there, but was called "Cumpy King". I remember meeting my father & others of the family but they simply called me Cumpy King, a name that clung to me long after I had sneaked back home.

I have a general recollection of my father's appearance, as a large florid man, of great activity and always at work in gardening or as a kind of doctor. He set out most of the early asparagus beds of Lancaster & introduced the earliest grapes. When the regular doctors were not at hand Judge Sherman was called for, and he seems to have allowed it. – I can well recall the scene at home when news of his death reached Lancaster. He died at Lebanon, Ohio, June 24, 1829. At that time it took 3 or 4 days to hear from there, and I don't think mother had correct intelligence. I was at school with the other children, and Tom Green came for us.¹⁰ We went home and found mother in bed, and Elizabeth too if I remember who had a few days before had a remarkable fall & rescue at Mount Pleasant.¹¹ Of course there was great mourning in the house, but if I remember aright mother did start in a hired carriage & got as far as Washington when she learned that father had been buried at Lebanon. (Years after he was transferred to Lancaster, Ohio).

Of course father's death was a terrible event in a family of eleven children. I was too young to appreciate it, but it was manifest that had it not been for the large circle of warm friends to help mother we would have been poor indeed. Mother had absolutely nothing but the house,

two or three town lots and some little bank stock but I have reason to believe that Mr Ewing, Mr Stanbery (present Attorney General), Mr Beecher & others arranged her affairs so that she had a small income beside the house.¹² – Still so large a family was more than she could have cared for without the positive help of friends. At the time of father's death, Charles T. was at college & afterwards went to Mansfield with Mr Parker our uncle by marriage.¹³ – Elizabeth was engaged & soon married Mr Reese.¹⁴ Amelia went to Mansfield & after married to Mr McComb. Jim was present with Mr Stoddard of Dayton (cousin) at father's death & returned to Cincinnati where he was in a store as a clerk. – Mr Reese took Julia. – Lamp was taken by Mr Charles Hammond of Cincinnati – John by cousin John Sherman of Mount Vernon, & the younger children remained with mother at Lancaster.¹⁵ I was taken by Mr Ewing and put on a par with his own children.¹⁶ There is no doubt that this scattering the family was a positive necessity, and we have reason to be thankful that though father had left no means of support he had such friends as would provide for and educate his children. I have a faint recollection of Mr Ewing calling for me, and taking me to his house, but very soon I became perfectly reconciled, and his elder son Phil & I became as two brothers and have been ever since.¹⁷

My first recollections of school are at a small brick house down Wheeling Street nearly where the canal now is to a Mrs Gilman.¹⁸ I must have been very small for I have a faint idea that it was a girls' school, and that older boys taunted me with it. – Next to a man named Parsons who kept school at the Academy, on Wheeling Street, afterwards converted into Dr Bigelow's dwelling.¹⁹ There we made some progress in mischief if not in learning. I remember one of his punishments was a storebox up side down – the boy under – I was inside more than once, and was on one occasion with a jack knife trying to enlarge a knot hole so as to peep out, for which I was well thrashed. In those days school masters did not spare the rod or strap.

Among the leading boys of that time not far from 1830 were Bill Irvin, Bill King, Mike Effinger, Perry Foster, Jim & Jack Maccracken, and Cump Sherman.²⁰ There was a carpenter named Woltz next the school with whom there was an open war. He had a kitchen garden back of his house, which was separated from the play yard by a fence. Our ball would sometimes go over, and after looking out for the enemy some boy bolder than the rest would leap the fence, get the ball & back again across fresh spaded garden beds before Woltz could interpose. He had a passel of children whom he stationed to watch and who succeeded in getting our ball and running to the father in his shop, who was reported to cut the ball up with his hatchet. Our balls were then made of yarn from an old stocking leg, covered with leather. To avenge ourselves we made balls of a hard stone, properly covered, which with the usual noise went over into the garden, were carried to Woltz who broke his hatchet in cutting the ball. Then instead of cutting them he burned the balls. We then prepared one with powder. This also resulted as we had calculated, a terrible explosion burning Mrs Woltz badly & nearly setting the house on fire. This was more than Woltz could stand, so he attacked us, crossed our fence and whipped very severely a boy named George Creed. Mr Creed, the father, was then a man of great influence, president of the bank & c. He took it up, and there was a grand row.²¹

After Parsons I remember well a young gentleman from Athens, Charles Brown – graduate of the Ohio University – took the Academy. He took it easy, and we thought it glorious. He favored too many holydays, did not punish, and I rather think under his management the Academy declined.²² Then came the Howes, when exactly I cannot tell, but not far from 1832. First Sam Howe, afterward his brother Mark Howe.²³ They were real first rate teachers, and I believe under them the school attained its highest fame.²⁴ They taught grammar & arithmetic as well as possible. Also the languages and under them we all made good progress.

They had the faculty of interesting us in our studies and, although Sam Howe was pretty severe, on the whole I think the school was one of the best in Ohio. I know that what I learned there was of great use to me at West Point, and all I know of Latin & Greek which is not much was acquired there. The school must have prospered for Sam Howe bought the Pap Boyle place, and began the erection of a schoolhouse on his own account.²⁵ He had the faculty of interesting us in his school for the boys did most of the carpentry work, sawing, making mortice holes, nailing on weather boarding & shingles and finally in lathing. We moved into that schoolhouse about 1834, & continued till I went to West Point.

From the time I was taken to Mr Ewing's I was regarded as one of his family, and like all the boys went steadily to school, with the usual diversions of fishing – hunting squirrels or quail – or gathering nuts in season. – But never got further from home than Columbus, where once or twice I went with Lamp who had come home from Cincinnati. In 1835 many canals were projected in Ohio but no railroads. The survey for the location of the Hocking Valley canal was made by Preacher Carpenter in 1835, and I was employed if I remember right at 50 cents a day and food.²⁶ – Church had the level.²⁷ Manuel Giesy and I had the levelling rods.²⁸ _____ Wilson was axeman & Bill King was along a sort of volunteer.²⁹ – The whole party was about 8. Mr Carpenter being on horseback ahead – the location was made with compass & stakes driven every hundred feet, and after the level determined the height of the stake we made an entry in a small book and marked it on the stake. Every night we all came together at some house selected by Carpenter, compared our books & slept – We got our meals at these houses. I have a perfectly clear memory of almost every day's work, which was concluded to Athens, Ohio, whence we footed it back to Lancaster before Christmas.³⁰

Bill Irvin had been appointed a cadet at West Point in 1835, where he then was.³¹ Mr

Ewing was in the Senate, and I knew that I was to go to West Point in 1836, and was preparing in algebra, geometry and French under a man named Lewis. In the spring the letter of appointment was received signed by Poinsett as Sec of War.³² Every word of the appointment was standard, especially the list of articles with which I was to go provided, and about the end of May 1836, I started for West Point. At that time there were no railroads in the West and I made the whole trip to Washington in stages, by Zanesville, Wheeling, Cumberland, Frederick & Washington. I found Mr Ewing boarding with a mess at the house of Mrs Hill, who also had a son at West Point (Bennett H. Hill).³³

I staid at Washington about a week seeing the sights, among which were President Jackson, Post Master General Amos Kendall & others of note. Heard Mr Webster, Calhoun, Clay, Cass and all of note at that time.³⁴ I also remember walking along Pennsylvania Av with Mr Ewing and, on passing Mr Southard, Mr Ewing presented me to him as his ward about to enter West Point.³⁵ Mr Southard spoke to me very kindly and added that he could only say to me, as he used to do to young men about to enter the Navy when he was Secretary – Write in the title page of all your books, “Be industrious and obedient and you have nothing to fear” – I also met in Washington two young men Belt & Bronaugh that were to enter in my class – both of whom did enter & were found deficient at the first examination.

In due season Mr Ewing provided me money, and I went to Baltimore by rail, and to Philadelphia by boat & rail. There by advice of Mr Reese I stopped a day at the Mansion House, and called to see his father & family who lived on Chestnut St. They were all very kind to me, but to my notions were very particular & precise. From Philadelphia I went to New York & stopped at the American Hotel, and found my Uncle Charles Hoyt, in an office in the Courier & Enquirer office in Wall Street. At that time he was very wealthy, and made me go over to his

house on Remsen Street, Brooklyn, the handsomest place I ever saw. His house was on the bluff at Brooklyn, opposite Wall Street, a double frame building, with a garden of at least four acres, extending down to the water. At that time there were no wharves from the White Street Ferry to Fulton St. and Brooklyn was a small place. I staid at Uncle Charles two or three days, and visited all parts of New York, & made my first acquaintance with a numerous list of relatives. Uncle James Hoyt – William Scott then just married to cousin Louisa. Also James A. Hoyt.³⁶

[*Transcriber's Notes: From New York City, Sherman continued on to West Point to begin his military career. Transcription completed 4-29-2006.*]

Endnotes

¹ See Thomas T. Sherman, *Sherman Genealogy* 318-26 (1920); C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History of Lancaster, Ohio* 53-57 (1898) (reprinted on demand by Higginson Book Co.) (details about Charles and Mary Sherman); John Sherman, *Recollections of Forty Years in the House, Senate and Cabinet: An Autobiography* 6 (1895) (listing the Sherman children and their birth dates); Laura E. Kerr, *William Tecumseh Sherman: A Family Chronicle* 100-02 (1984) (collecting some information about Sherman's siblings).

² The approximate date 1868 for Sherman's manuscript is provided in a letter from his son Philemon Tecumseh Sherman to Lloyd Lewis, the author of the 1932 biography *Sherman: Fighting Prophet* (republished by Smithmark Publishers Inc. 1994). The 1868 date is consistent with Sherman's reference to Henry Stanbery as the "present Attorney General." (See letter dated January 13, 1934, Ohio Historical Society (the manuscript was "[w]ritten in or about 1868"); endnote 12 below.)

³ The website of the Fairfield County Visitors & Convention Bureau provides a virtual tour of the Sherman neighborhood at <http://www.tourlancasterohio.org>. Information about lot ownership in the neighborhood over time may be found in Charles R. Goslin, *Crossroads and Fence Corners: Historical Lore of Fairfield County*, Vol. 2, at 45-52 (1980). Much additional information about the Lancaster of Sherman's youth can be found in C.M.L. Wiseman's *Centennial History*, fully cited in endnote 1 above.

⁴ Sherman's brother John reports that their mother was an Episcopalian. But, upon her arrival in Lancaster, "she found there no church of that denomination, and, therefore, [for a time] joined the Presbyterian church under the pastorage of Rev. John Wright, who baptized all her children." While there is room for doubt about the spelling of "Daugherty," this presumably was Michael Daugherty, a teacher, lawyer, banker, and businessman who also served briefly in the Ohio Senate. (See John Sherman, *Recollections* at 25-26; C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 200-01, 232-33; Hervey Scott, *A Complete History of Fairfield County, Ohio* 112 (1877).)

⁵ Where this transcription says "Sturgeon," someone has annotated the manuscript, in block capitals, "Stimpson." It seems more likely that "Sturgeon" was intended; the reference is probably to Thomas Sturgeon, who maintained a boarding house in Lancaster at this time. (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 35-37 (Timothy and Thomas Sturgeon); Charles R. Goslin, *Crossroads*, Vol. 2, at 37, 46; *Memoirs of General W.T. Sherman* 13 (Library of America ed. 1990) (mentioning "Jane Sturgeon").)

⁶ Michael Garaghty was cashier of the Lancaster bank. "Aunty Sumner" apparently was Catherine Sumner, born Catherine Wilson, who was married initially to Lancaster resident General John Williamson and subsequently to Colonel William Sumner, both of whom served during the War of 1812. (See Charles R. Goslin, *Crossroads*, Vol. 2, at 51; C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 27, 47-48; C.M.L. Wiseman, *Pioneer People and Pioneer Period of Fairfield County, Ohio* 251 (1901) (Catherine Wilson).) The "carpenter Weaver" apparently was Christian (or perhaps Christopher) Weaver, who also served as an elected commissioner of Fairfield County. Reportedly, he and

Judge Charles Sherman “were near neighbors and intimate friends. They both died the same summer, leaving large families of young children.” (C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 325; see A.A. Graham, *History of Fairfield and Perry Counties, Ohio* 192 (1883) (http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~tfisher/fairfield_perry_history.htm); Charles R. Goslin, *Crossroads*, Vol. 2, at 50.)

⁷ Sherman’s manuscript says “old squire Stalmsmith”; the reference is apparently to John Stallsmith, a shoemaker, who lived on Main Street and served as a constable and justice of the peace. The King household was that of Christian King; he and his brother William were merchants in Lancaster at this time. (See Hervey Scott, *A Complete History* at 176-77; C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 32-33, 356-57; Charles R. Goslin, *Crossroads*, Vol. 2, at 50.)

⁸ The reference is to James Sherman, born in 1814, the family’s second-born son..

⁹ A somewhat different version of this accident appears in Sherman’s *Memoirs*. (P. 12.)

¹⁰ Sherman’s *Memoirs* state that “Jane Sturgeon” came to the school with the news of Charles Sherman’s death. (P. 13.)

¹¹ Mary Elizabeth Sherman was Sherman’s eldest sister, born in 1812. (See John Sherman, *Recollections* at 6, 28.) Her injury on Mount Pleasant is discussed in Lloyd Lewis, *Sherman: Fighting Prophet* at 37.

¹² In 1829, Ewing, Stanbery, and Beecher were all practicing law in Lancaster, Ohio. Thomas Ewing (1789-1871) served twice in the U.S. Senate (1831-37, 1850-51) and in the Cabinets of William Henry Harrison (1841) and Zachary Taylor (1849-50). Henry Stanbery (1803-81) served as U.S. Attorney General, from 1866 to 1868, under President Andrew Johnson, resigning to defend Johnson during his impeachment trial. Philemon Beecher (1775-1839) was several times elected to Congress and had raised Thomas Ewing’s wife, Maria Boyle Ewing. After Charles Sherman’s death, Ewing and Beecher jointly issued a “Circular to the Bench and Bar of Ohio” seeking financial support for Mary Sherman. (See biographies of Ewing & Beecher at Bioguide.Congress.gov; biography of Stanbery at AmericanPresident.org; Katherine Burton, *Three Generations* 12-14 (1947) (triple biography of Maria Boyle Ewing, Ellen Ewing Sherman, and Minnie Sherman Fitch); Circular dated August 10, 1829, Thomas Ewing Family Papers, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division (“TEFP-LC”), Cntr. 3, at 2964-5.)

¹³ Charles T. Sherman became a lawyer and, after the Civil War, served as a United States District Judge, in the Northern District of Ohio. Apparently, after his father’s death, Charles first went to Dayton, Ohio, to study law with his mother’s cousin, Henry Stoddard, and only later relocated to Mansfield, Ohio, the home of Jacob Parker, who was married to his aunt Elizabeth Sherman Parker. (See John Sherman, *Recollections* at 29, 49-50, 83, 726; Laura E. Kerr, *William Tecumseh Sherman* at 100; Jo & Don Libert, “Charles Taylor Sherman, Part I,” *Fairfield Heritage Quarterly*, Vol. 25, No. 4, at 3 (Fall 2002).)

¹⁴ William J. Reese was a lawyer, businessman, and militia general. In 1872, he wrote a “Sketch of the Life of Judge Charles R. Sherman,” Ohio Historical Society. (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 111-13; John Sherman, *Recollections* at 20-24.)

¹⁵ This paragraph contains more detail about the impact of Charles Sherman’s death on Sherman’s siblings than does the relevant passage in his *Memoirs*. (P. 13; see also John Sherman, *Recollections* at 28-29; Laura E. Kerr, *William Tecumseh Sherman* at 23, 100-02.) The three youngest children were Susan Denman, Hoyt, and Frances Beecher. Sherman’s brother John was the fifth Sherman son. He spent more time in Lancaster than this paragraph suggests and grew up to serve for decades in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Executive Branch, figuring prominently in the politics of the Civil War era and later giving his name to the Sherman Antitrust Act. (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 125-27; John Sherman, *Recollections* at 29-30, 231-376 & 1071-76; WTS, *Memoirs* at 166, 184-86, 195 & “Chronology” therein at 1085.)

¹⁶ In 1865, Thomas Ewing described the informal adoption as follows: “As soon as the widow’s first burst of grief was over I called on her – Said to her it was not possible for a widow to take proper care of six boys, all children & that I wanted one of hers & she must give me the brightest of the lot & I would make a man of him – She selected Cump who was playing in the street – I took him home with me & he was thereafter my boy.” (Letter from Thomas Ewing to Ellen Ewing Sherman, Washington, Feb. 13, 1865, TEFP-LC, Cntr. 164, Letter Book 1864-1868, at 117.)

¹⁷ In the manuscript, the word “Phil” appears after the word “I”; it has been moved for sense. The reference is to Philemon Beecher Ewing (1820-1896). Many letters from Sherman to Philemon Ewing have been published in Joseph Ewing, *Sherman at War* (1992). Philemon Ewing ultimately had six siblings, including a younger sister, Ellen Boyle Ewing (1824-1888), who became Sherman’s wife in 1850. (See *Memoirs* at 106; Thomas Ewing Family Papers, University of Notre Dame Archives (“TEFP-UNDA”), “Background,” at EW1002, Internet address <http://archives.nd.edu/findaids/ead/html/EW1.htm>.)

¹⁸ The transcriber has thus far been unable to find any information about Mrs. Gilman or her school.

¹⁹ Sherman's unpublished recollections and his *Memoirs* (p. 14) identify his first teacher at the Academy as "Mr. Parsons." There was a teacher in Lancaster at that time named Joel S. Parsons. However, Mr. Parsons may not have been affiliated with the Academy. According to Sherman biographer Lloyd Lewis, Sherman's first teacher was "Williamson Wright, son of Parson Wright," the Sherman neighbor and Presbyterian minister at Lancaster. (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 148; Lloyd Lewis, *Sherman: Fighting Prophet* at 23, 36.)

²⁰ Sherman's manuscript says "McCracken," but presumably this was the locally prominent Maccracken family. (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 57-60.)

²¹ The name "Woltz" in this paragraph is not certain, but this may have been Jesse Woltz, a cabinet-maker in Lancaster. Although the handwriting is unclear, it appears that it must have been "Mrs Woltz" who was burned, as Sherman otherwise referred simply to "Woltz." (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 331.)

²² As can be seen, Sherman's unpublished recollections are critical of George Brown as a teacher. In his *Memoirs*, Sherman evaluates all his Academy teachers, including "Mr. Brown," as "excellent teachers." (P. 14.)

²³ The manuscript says "John Howe," rather than "Mark." However, Sherman's *Memoirs* and the *Centennial History of Lancaster* give the brothers' names as "Samuel" and "Mark." (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 132-34.)

²⁴ The word "fame" is not certain.

²⁵ Hugh Boyle, the clerk of the Fairfield County Court of Common Pleas, was the father of Sherman's adoptive mother, Maria Boyle Ewing. In his *Memoirs*, Sherman states that the new school house was built "in the orchard of Hugh Boyle, Esq." (See TEF-UNDA, "Background," at EW1001-002; C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 28-30, 132-33; WTS, *Memoirs* at 14.)

²⁶ Rev. Samuel Carpenter was a Baptist preacher and surveyor. (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 97.)

²⁷ The name "Church" is not certain, and there is no corresponding reference in the similar account in Sherman's *Memoirs*. (P. 14.)

²⁸ Sherman's manuscript says "Geisy," but the correct spelling seems to be "Giesy." (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 326.)

²⁹ Sherman's *Memoirs* contain a blank for Wilson's first name (p. 14), and it appears that the same was intended in the manuscript (rather than a dash serving as punctuation).

³⁰ Presumably the reference is to Christmas 1834, as Sherman's *Memoirs* seem to place this work in the fall of 1834 and spring of 1835. (P. 14.)

³¹ William Irvin, the son of a prominent Lancaster figure, graduated from West Point in 1839 but soon left the Army for the practice of law. He served as a colonel of volunteers during the Mexican War, settled in Texas, and died there. (See C.M.L. Wiseman, *Centennial History* at 26-27; Lloyd Lewis, *Sherman: Fighting Prophet* at 61; James M. Merrill, *William Tecumseh Sherman* 36 (1971); Stanley P. Hirshson, *The White Tecumseh: A Biography of William T. Sherman* 29 (1997).)

³² The same statement about his letter of appointment to West Point appears in Sherman's *Memoirs*. (P. 14.) However, his appointment was actually made during the tenure of Lewis Cass as Secretary of War, and Sherman accepted his appointment in an April 4, 1836 letter to Cass. Then, fearing that letter lost, he wrote to Cass again on May 5, 1836. Cass served as Secretary of War from 1831 to 1836, under Andrew Jackson. Joel R. Poinsett served as Secretary of War from 1837 to 1841, under Martin Van Buren. (See letter from WTS to Lewis Cass, Secretary of War, Lancaster, Ohio, April 4, 1836, Sherman Family Papers ("SFP"), UNDA, microfilm roll 1, at 0213; letter from WTS to Lewis Cass, Lancaster, Ohio, May 5, 1836, TEF-UNDA, Cntr. 152, Sp. Corr., W.T. Sherman 4/22/1832-9/15/1838; biographies of Cass & Poinsett at AmericanPresident.org.)

³³ Bennett H. Hill graduated from West Point in 1837; he became a brevet brigadier general in January 1865. (See John H. Eicher & David J. Eicher, *Civil War High Commands* 296 (2001).)

³⁴ The implication here seems to be that Sherman "heard" these figures in the U.S. Senate, where Thomas Ewing was then serving. Sherman arrived in Washington on June 1, 1836 and spent a week there. Congress was in session at that time, and Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, and Henry Clay were all serving in the Senate then. Although Lewis Cass later served in the Senate, he was Secretary of War when Sherman visited Washington. (See letter from WTS to Maria Boyle Ewing, Washington City, June 2, 1836, SFP, UNDA, microfilm roll 1, at 0215; *Memoirs* at 15; *Congressional Globe*, 24th Cong., 1st Sess. 516-39 (June 1-June 8, 1836); biographies of Calhoun, Cass, Clay & Webster at Bioguide.Congress.gov; biography of Cass at AmericanPresident.org.)

³⁵ Samuel L. Southard served as Secretary of the Navy from 1823 to 1829, under James Monroe and John Quincy Adams. At the time of Sherman's visit to Washington, Southard was serving in the Senate. (See biographies at AmericanPresident.org. & Bioguide.Congress.gov.)

³⁶ Sherman's uncles, James and Charles Hoyt, were the brothers of his mother, Mary Hoyt Sherman. Charles Hoyt, whom Sherman described as very wealthy "at that time," became mentally unstable by 1860, depleted his fortune, and spent time institutionalized. Sherman's manuscript refers to James Hoyt's children as "cousin Louise" and "James M. Hoyt," but the correct names appear to be James A. Hoyt and Louisa C. Hoyt. (See David W. Hoyt, *A Genealogical History of the Hoyt, Haight, and Hight Families* 425, 509 (1871); Stanley P. Hirshson, *The White Tecumseh* at 72, 342-43.)