WILLIAM BRANCH GILES: A STUDY IN THE POLITIS OF VIRGINIA AND THE NATION FROM 1790 TO 1830

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649020454

William Branch Giles: a Study in the Politis of Virginia and the Nation from 1790 to 1830 by Dice Robins Anderson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

DICE ROBINS ANDERSON

WILLIAM BRANCH GILES: A STUDY IN THE POLITIS OF VIRGINIA AND THE NATION FROM 1790 TO 1830



To ADA ASH ANDERSON, FAITHFUL CO-LABORER



WILLIAM BRANCH GILES

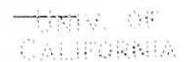
From a Ministure made in Washington 1813 and now in the possession of
Mrs. J. W. Sharp, Nec. Miss. Elizabeth Townes, great-granddaughter of Governor Giles.

William Branch Giles: A Study in the Politics of Virginia and the Nation from 1790 to 1830

DICE ROBINS ANDERSON, B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Professor and Head of the Department of History and Political Science

Richmond College, Richmond, Virginia.



The Collegiate Beesa GEORGE BANTA PUBLISHING CO. MENASHA, WIS. 1914

PREFACE

A life of William Branch Giles has long been a desideratum. His active labors in the formation of the Democratic-Republican Party, his long service in legislative bodies-the General Assembly of Virginia and the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States; -and his leadership in each of these bodies; his dramatic career as Governor; his spectacular appearance in newspaper and pamphlet literature as well as his reputation for marvellous forensic abilities; indeed the variety of his animosities and the conspicuousness of his many enemies-these things and others point him out as a figure worth studying. He was a friend of Jefferson and an enemy of Hamilton. He became a foe of Gallatin and Monroe. He finally espoused the cause of Andrew Jackson and developed into the bitterest of the enemies of John Quincy Adams. Like all men he went through cycles of political opinions. In the days of Jefferson he shared the idealism and enthusiasm of small farmers and artisans, of the Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists who crowded one another in trying to touch the hem of free-thinking Jefferson's garment; he fought against the National Bank, protective tariff, and the American Navy; he struggled against usurpations of power by the General Government. He came, however, to write drastic laws based on a broad construction of the Constitution and deplored lack of energy on the part of the Federal Government; he even cooperated in Federalist attacks on Republican administrators. He ended his career with the same ardor for State Rights and strict construction which had characterized his youth, but adopted a most un-Jeffersonian hostility to Democratic change in the Constitution of Virginia. He closed his days as an apostle of unvielding conservatism and as a prophet of secession.

The life of this remarkable Virginian has greatly interested the writer. If the story has been well told, it will interest the reader. It is a story difficult to put together because the materials have been extensive on those phases of the life which are least interesting, and scattered and few on those phases that

would prove most entertaining. Giles was a most generous public writer and copious speaker but apparently a very stingy letter writer. No effort has been omitted to discover material or to study it. Interpretation has likewise been no easy task. Although little work has heretofore been done on Giles's life, yet every writer of history for the period 1790-1830 has thought it his duty to give an estimate of this remarkable Virginian. A characteristic opinion is that of Henry Cabot Lodge who has spoken of him as a "coarse political ruffian" and "a rough, brazen, loud-voiced Virginian, fit for every bad work, no matter how desperate." The history of the time in which Giles lived has been written very largely by the descendants and partisans of his enemies-and their opinions of him have been unusually bad. It has been difficult to avoid accepting the views of the talented New England historians on the one hand or on the other, in a reaction from them, to avoid taking opinions from another school, equally as partisan. The task has been rendered the harder by the limitations of space the writer felt it necessary to obey.

The work has been made easier and more pleasant by the kind assistance of many generous friends. To Professors Dodd and McLaughlin of the University of Chicago, I owe a large debt of gratitude for years of kindness. Mr. Hunt and his staff at the Congressional Library; Dr. McIlwaine and his assistants at the Virginia State Library; Mr. Stanard and the Virginia Historical Society; Mr. Henry Adams, the famous historian of the administration of Jefferson and Madison; Mr. T. P. Giles and the members of the interested family; Dr. H. J. Eckenrode, my distinguished colleague in the Department of History at Richmond College; and many others in various parts of the country have helped when called upon.

I wish to acknowledge with particular gratitude the persistent kindness of Mr. Earl G. Swem, the immensely capable Assistant Librarian of the Virginia State Library who has several times read both the manuscript and the proof, and to Mr. E. J. Woodhouse, Instructor in History at Yale University, who gave unstintedly of his valuable time in token of a cordial friendship of many years' standing.

To my wife, more than to all others, I must make acknowledgment of never failing aid given in countless ways during the five years that this study has been around the house, and of many sacrifices which she has cheerfully made in behalf of my labor.

It is certainly only fair for me to express here my appreciation of the painstaking care, the unfailing courtesy and even the generosity of Mr. George Banta and his staff, the publishers of this book. They thoroughly know their craft, and yet are patient with young authors, who know neither the printer's craft nor their own.

I wish also to express here my appreciation of the action of the Illinois Division of the Daughters of the Confederacy in conferring upon the writer of these pages their prize for 1914. Whether their judgment as to this particular piece of work is correct or not, certain it is that their endeavor to encourage attempts at genuine scholarship in Southern History is worthy of emulation.

> Richmond College, Richmond, Va., Sept. 2, 1914.

CONTENTS

	Page
CHAPTER I	
Early Years	1
CHAPTER II	
Fighting the Federalists	10
CHAPTER III	
The Jay Treaty	36
CHAPTER IV	
The Retirement of Washington and the French War	51
CHAPTER V	
The Virginia Resolutions of 1798 and the Election of	
1800	61
CHAPTER VI	
Republican Reformation: War on the Courts	76
CHAPTER VII	2000
Monroe's Treaty and the Burr Trial	101
CHAPTER VIII	
The Chesapeake Outrage and the Treason Bill	112
CHAPTER IX	
The Campaign of 1808: Repeal of the Embargo	122
CHAPTER X	
The Smith Faction	146
CHAPTER XI	
The War of 1812: Triumphant Insurgency	171
CHAPTER XII	
"Putting Claws on Gallatin"	185
CHAPTER XIII	
Closing the War: Retirement of Senator Giles	196
CHAPTER XIV	
State Rights in Virginia after the War of 1812	207
CHAPTER XV	
The Convention of 1829-30	229
Bibliography	238
Appendix—	
Index-	