

1766 of the 8th Foot and in 1772 of the 14th Dragoons.

[Charles Dalton, *George the First's Army*, vol. II (1912); Army Lists; Richard Cannon, *Hist. Records of the British Army: the Eighth or King's Reg. of Foot* (1844), *the Fourteenth, or the King's Light Dragoons* (1847); *Hist. MSS. Commission, Reports on Various Colls.*, vol. VIII (1913); S. M. Pargellis, *Lord Loudoun in North America* (1933); *War in North America, 1748-1765* (1936).] S. M. P.

WEBB, GEORGE JAMES (June 24, 1803-Oct. 7, 1887), musician, composer, was born at "Rushmore Lodge," Wiltshire, near Salisbury, England. His father, James Millett Webb, was a landowner with large holdings. His wife was Isabel Ann Archer, and George was their eldest child. The environment of the home was musical; the father was an amateur singer, and the mother a talented musician who gave her son music lessons before he was seven years of age. At a boarding school in Salisbury he studied music with Alexander Lucas, and learned to play the violin and piano. He subsequently decided to make music his profession and studied in Falmouth with an organist of that city. Later he determined to emigrate to America and booked passage for New York, but was persuaded to change his destination by the captain of a ship sailing for Boston. He landed in Boston in 1830, and within a few weeks he was appointed organist of the Old South Church. He soon became associated with Lowell Mason [*q.v.*] in his educational projects, and was placed in charge of the secular music of the newly organized Boston Academy of Music. He organized an orchestra at the Academy which gave regular concerts for fourteen years—until 1847. In the same year a Musical Fund Society was organized and Webb became conductor of its orchestra until 1852, when he resigned because of other duties, though he remained president of the society until 1855. He was important in the development of music in Boston because he acted as the link between the pioneer efforts of J. C. Gottlieb Graupner, and the future work of Carl Zerrahn [*qq.v.*] with the orchestra of the Harvard Musical Association.

Meanwhile Webb helped Mason establish a series of Normal Musical Conventions for training teachers in 1836. Attendance at these conventions grew from fourteen in the first year to a thousand in 1849. He collaborated with Mason in compiling song and hymn books—*The Psalter* (1845); *The National Psalmist* (1848); and *Cantica Laudis* (1850). Alone he compiled and edited *Scripture Worship* (1834); *The American Glee Book* (1841); and, for the Boston Handel and Haydn Society, of which he was con-

ductor from 1833 to 1836, the *Massachusetts Collection of Psalmody* (1840). He removed to Orange, N. J., about 1870, and lived there for the rest of his life. He occupied himself by giving vocal lessons in New York, and conducting summer normal courses at Binghamton, N. Y. His wife was Caroline Elizabeth Parmella (Haven) Merriam. Of their six children, one daughter became the wife of William Mason, 1829-1908 [*q.v.*].

As a composer, Webb is known principally for the hymn-tune "Webb." This was originally composed for secular words, "'Tis dawn, the lark is singing." As a hymn-tune it was first used with the text beginning, "The morning light is breaking," but came to be known almost exclusively as the music for "Stand up, stand up for Jesus." Webb composed many songs, choral works, and a few instrumental pieces, but few of them have survived. George F. Root [*q.v.*] termed Webb the "most refined and delightful teacher of the English glee and madrigal" he had ever known (Root, *post*, p. 28). His son-in-law, William Mason (*post*, p. 9), described him as "a gentleman of high culture, thoroughly educated in music."

[W. J. Metcalf, *Am. Writers and Compilers of Sacred Music* (1925); J. T. Howard, *Our Am. Music* (1931); G. F. Root, *The Story of a Musical Life* (1891); William Mason, *Memories of a Musical Life* (1901); typescript book by Mary Sturgis Gray, "Webb Descendants of England" (1930), in the possession of members of the family; *N. Y. Tribune*, Oct. 8, 1887.] J. T. H.

WEBB, JAMES WATSON (Feb. 8, 1802-June 7, 1884), journalist and diplomat, was born at Claverack, N. Y. Through his mother, Catharine Hogeboom, he came of old New York Dutch stock, and through his father, Gen. Samuel Blachley Webb (1753-1807), an aide of Washington, of old Connecticut stock, his first American ancestor being Richard Webb who was admitted freeman in Boston in 1632 and went to Hartford in 1635. Early orphaned, he was educated at Cooperstown, N. Y., under the guardianship of a brother-in-law, but at seventeen ran away to join the army. Appearing in Washington (1819) armed with a letter of identification from Gov. DeWitt Clinton of New York, he persuaded Secretary of War John C. Calhoun to give him a second lieutenant's commission. He was assigned at first to the artillery at Governor's Island, N. Y., but was transferred in 1821 to the 3rd Infantry at Chicago. There, in 1822, he had a notable frontier adventure, when he volunteered to carry to Fort Armstrong on the Mississippi news of a meditated Indian attack on Fort Snelling, Minn., crossing the forests and prairies of Illinois in the depth of winter while trailed by

Webb

hostile Indians. As impetuous as he was audacious, Webb fought two duels with fellow-officers, came near fighting many more, and finally (1827) resigned from the army in consequence of one of these embroilments. At this time he was a first lieutenant; his later title of general was conferred at the time of his appointment as minister to Austria (*A Letter . . . to J. Bramley-Moore, post, p. 5*).

On leaving the army young Webb went to New York City and plunged into a journalistic career, eventually to become one of the most influential editors in that age of personal journalism. In 1827 he acquired the *Morning Courier*, and in 1829 acquired and merged with it the *New-York Enquirer*, thereafter continuing as editor and proprietor of the *Morning Courier and New-York Enquirer* until he sold out to the *World* in 1861 and retired from the field. At first staunchly Jacksonian, he deserted Jackson in 1832 on the United States Bank issue, and became a chief prop of the Whig party. He was an anti-abolitionist but a free-soiler, and during the 1850's urged the preservation of the Union even at the cost of war. The *Courier and Enquirer* was one of the old sixpenny "blanket sheets" destined to be starved out by the smaller, cheaper papers, two of which were founded by one-time assistants of Webb's, James Gordon Bennett, the elder, and Henry Jarvis Raymond [*qq.v.*]. With its chief rival, the *Journal of Commerce*, the *Courier and Enquirer* waged a war of size which eventually produced folios containing over two thousand square inches of type. In the 1830's the rivals sent schooners fifty to a hundred miles to sea in a race for incoming news, and established pony expresses to hasten the news from Washington. With the editors of the penny papers Webb later exchanged plentiful invective, until he was called the "best abused" of them all. He was frequently involved in affairs of honor growing out of his editorial activities, on one occasion (1842) escaping prison under the New York anti-dueling law only by the pardon of the governor.

At the outbreak of the Civil War Webb sold his paper and, somewhat to his own surprise, found himself in the diplomatic service. He had journeyed to Vienna in 1849-50 under appointment (Jan. 7, 1850), as chargé d'affaires to Austria, only to be greeted with the news that the Senate had refused to confirm his appointment, perhaps because of a widespread desire to break with Austria in protest against the Hungarian war. He was now (May 31, 1861) made minister to Brazil, and went to his post via France, where he presented the Union cause to Louis

Webb

Napoleon, his friend and correspondent since their meeting in 1835 while Napoleon was in exile. Later, through correspondence and another fateful interview (November 1865), Webb was instrumental in securing a promise of French withdrawal from Mexico. The record of his eight strenuous years in Brazil is marked by an alert patriotism and a bold energy verging on rashness. He had the satisfaction of seeing the unfriendly British envoy sent home in disgrace. He fought tirelessly against the aid extended to Confederate privateers, protected the interests of Americans during the Paraguayan War, and secured the settlement of several long-standing maritime claims. Retiring from the service in 1869, he traveled in Europe for two years, and then lived quietly at home, mostly in New York, until his death. His publications include a number of pamphlets: *To the Officers of the Army* (1827) on the occasion of his resignation; *Slavery and Its Tendencies* (n.d.), written in 1856; *A Letter . . . to J. Bramley-Moore, Esq., M.P.* (n.d.), on the affair with the British envoy; and *A National Currency* (1875). He also wrote *Reminiscences of General Samuel B. Webb* (1882).

Webb was twice married: first (July 1, 1823) to Helen Lispenard Stewart, daughter of Alexander L. Stewart, who died in 1848; second (Nov. 9, 1849) to Laura Virginia Cram, daughter of Jacob Cram, millionaire brewer. Of the eight children born of the first union, five grew to maturity, the youngest being Alexander Stewart Webb [*q.v.*], the well-known Civil War general. There were five sons born of the second marriage. Webb's tall figure, massive head, and piercing eyes gave him a dignified, even imposing presence, which he retained until old age, in spite of a half-century's battle with hereditary gout.

[In addition to Webb's pamphlets, see for family data Webb's *Reminiscences of Gen. Samuel B. Webb* (1882); for the Fort Snelling adventure, dedication to *Altowan; or, Incidents of Life and Adventure in the Rocky Mountains* (2 vols., 1846), ed. by Webb; for charges arising out of the Carolina claims, *Gen. J. Watson Webb . . . vs. Hamilton Fish* (1875), and J. B. Moore, *A Digest of Internat. Law* (1906), vol. VI, pp. 749-50. See also G. H. Andrews, in *Sketches of Men of Progress* (1870-71), ed. by James Parton; N. A. Cleven, in *Revista do Instituto Historico e Geographico Brasileiro . . . Congresso Internacional de Historia da America* (1925), pp. 293-394; F. E. Stevens, *James Watson Webb's Trip across Ill. in 1822* (1924); Frederic Hudson, *Journalism in the U. S.* (1873); obituary in *N. Y. Times*, June 8, 1884. Webb's dispatches from Brazil were published in *Papers Relating to Foreign Affairs*, 1862-69.]

E. M. S.

WEBB, JOHN BURKITT (Nov. 22, 1841-Feb. 17, 1912), engineer, professor of mathematics, inventor, was born in Philadelphia, Pa.,