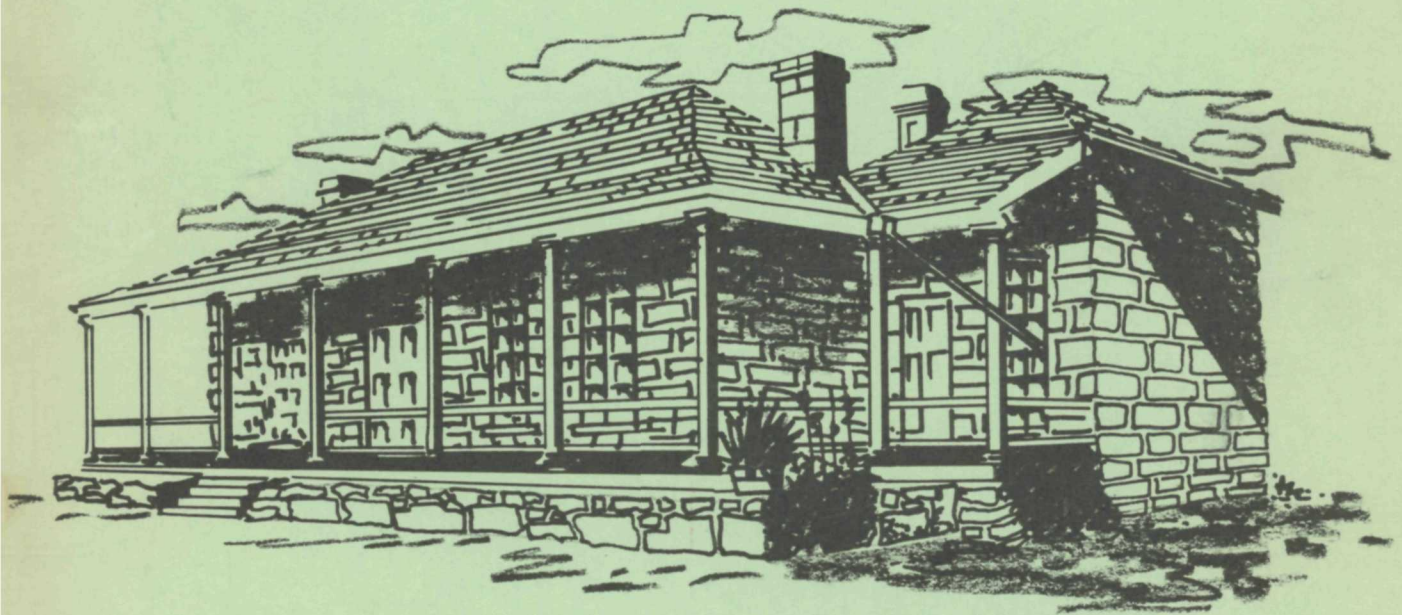


Commanding Officer's Quarters

FORT DAVIS, TEXAS
FURNISHING STUDY



January 15, 1968

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by
Benjamin Levy



DIVISION OF HISTORY
Office Of Archeology And Historic Preservation

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Acknowledgments

Many people generously assisted in the preparation of this study. Special thanks must go to Mrs. Martha C. Frank who gave of her time and patience, as well as her possessions. Not only did she spend hours of her time reminiscing about General Grierson and his family but she donated numerous objects originally belonging to the Grierson household that will be used in the refurnishing. Another lady who should be thanked for her contribution is Mrs. Rufus A. Healy of Cincinnati, Ohio. Mrs. Healy, also a Grand-niece of General Grierson, donated a number of historic objects which will prove valuable to the project.

Thanks go also to Dr. Don Rickey for reviewing the manuscript and to Nan Rickey for sharing the insights of her valuable experience as a furnishings curator.

Benjamin Levy

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FOREWARD

This study was undertaken in accordance with Historical Resource Study Proposals FODA-H-12a and 16 which call for basic information in order to properly undertake the refurnishing of the Commanding Officer's Quarters at Fort Davis National Historic Site, Fort Davis, Texas. The format of this report follows the instructions of draft chapter 4 of the Interpretive Planning Handbook, April 1, 1965, referred to in the memorandum of April 14, 1965 from Ralph H. Lewis, Chief, Branch of Museum operations to the Regional Directors of the Southeast, Midwest and Northeast Regions. The objectives and operating plan (Parts A and B) were drafted by Superintendent Franklin G. Smith. The analysis of historic occupancy and evidence of original furnishings (Parts C and D) were prepared by Historian Benjamin Levy and constitute the documentary study. The final two sections (Parts E and F) are to be prepared by the Branch of Museum Operations.

The study and plan were based primarily on architectural evidence revealed by the present structure and available historic documents. The latter consisted of a number of different sources. First, there were military records, copies of which are contained in the files of Fort Davis National Historic Site. Second, there

was an abundance of Grierson family correspondence housed in various repositories. The collections in the Newberry Library, Chicago, and the Illinois State Historical Society, Springfield, Illinois, were brought together on microfilm and Xerox-copy currently filed at the Historic Site. The original source of the Grierson papers is the Grand-niece of Gen. Benjamin Henry Grierson--Mrs. Martha C. Frank of Jacksonville, Illinois.

Mrs. Frank donated another collection of Grierson correspondence to the County Historical Society at San Angelo, Texas. These papers have not been examined in detail but should be as time permits. It is unlikely that the San Angelo papers would reveal anything that might seriously alter the furnishing plan because they are mostly concerned with the Griersons at Fort Concho. However, evidence in that collection might modify the furnishing details and for this reason should be examined. Finally, there remained with Mrs. Frank a moderate amount of correspondence bearing upon the furnishings of the CO's Quarters. These she graciously donated to Fort Davis National Historic Site. She retained the correspondence of Col. Charles Grierson, son of General Grierson, and intends to give that collection to Charles' daughters, Alice and Joy Grierson of Los Angeles, California.

Throughout this report references are made to "Colonel" Grierson although he was a Major General of Volunteers and breveted the

same rank in the regular army for meritorious service during the Civil War. He also retired with the regular rank of Major General. Herein, he is usually referred to as Colonel because this was his regular rank during his command at Fort Davis.

PART A: Definition of Interpretive Objectives

In refurnishing the Commanding Officer's Quarters, HB-7, the principal interpretive objective is to assist the visitor in attaining an empathy with the officers of the frontier army, by showing him the environment of a senior officer in a duty station. To correct the wide misapprehensions which the popular entertainment media have created, the most appropriate officer at Fort Davis would have been Col. (and brevet major general) Benjamin Henry Grierson, Commanding Officer of the 10th Cavalry from 1867 through the late 1880's. Colonel Grierson was representative of regimental commanders in being a considerable personality in his own right; he was typical in having outside interests and outside supplements to his army pay; he was post commander for longer than any other officer (November 1882 through April 1885). Grierson's interest in music--an easily interpreted outside interest--and his prominence in the Civil War, the Southern Plains and Mescalero Apache campaigns, and as a retired military resident and rancher in the Fort Davis area combine to make him an exceptional example for the area and the time.

The furnishings will be those of a ranking officer, including specimens of original Grierson furnishings available and a number

of personal belongings as well. The setting will be that of a home as a machine for living rather than a partial reconstruction. In displaying the total environment of the Grierson residence, the garden and garden fence, servant's quarters, kitchen, and the seven rooms of the house proper will be refurnished, with the objective of placing the visitor as a casual entrant into a home that is lived in, rather than an example piece of the period. Grierson's known accomplishments in music and literary fields, as well as his Civil War record and his role as a serious student of military history and science, will be featured. Throughout, the highly civilized life led by a senior officer between periods of field duty, and the relatively comfortable existence in a major military post will be stressed. These were civilized people, and will be presented as such.

PART B: The Operating Program

The interior of all structures (excepting the privy) will be refurnished. No exhibits or modern intrusions will be used, with the exception of a register book in the entry hall or near the exit. All presentation during the summer season will be by women (historians or park guides) in period costume, with guided tour the only access normally permitted.

The visitor will enter at the front door and receive a brief orientation talk in the entry hall, with a reference to the rooms north of the entry hall (protected by low visibility walk-in barrier). The tour will then proceed through the south wing parlor to the dining room and to the garden. After a brief mention of the servant's quarters and kitchen, with a possible entrance into the kitchen, the tour can move to the north exit from the yard and permit the visitors to leave at their leisure after approximately twenty minutes of conducted time, plus question and discussion time. Throughout the tour, emphasis should be on the life of the period rather than on specific furnishings, and the Grierson family reactions to life on the frontier, rather than the concrete objects. Period outdoor furniture on the porches and in the garden could be used for relaxation and waiting periods by visitors, and by those who wish to absorb a bit of extra atmosphere.

In addition to the above uses, limited arrangements for period musicales, normally in the garden of the house, could be made for special occasions. Use of the period instruments, when accomplished personnel could be found, will add materially to the understanding of Grierson and the family life of the post at this time.

Staffing needs will be three seasonal historians or park guides during the summer months (.8 man-year) plus one part-time seasonal historian or tour leader during the winter months (.8 man-year) plus one permanent curator, historian, or park guide on a year-round basis. A part-time charwoman, trained in handling of historic houses, is also desirable. Estimated annual visitation will be 80,000 the first year, rising at approximately 10,000 per year for the next three years, and then leveling to a slower rate of climb.

PART C: Analysis of Historic Occupancy

The Commanding Officer's Quarters at Fort Davis had a succession of occupants from 1869, when the structure was completed, to 1891 when the fort was abandoned. Official occupancy of the house is indicated in the Historical Handbook for the area.¹ However, since this study is concerned only with the occupancy of Col. Benjamin Henry Grierson and his family it is not necessary to elaborate on other residents.

The Time Span

Colonel Grierson was appointed post commander of Fort Davis on November 20, 1882 and ordered to the Department of New Mexico on May 12, 1885.² Some period of time during this 2 1/2 year span must be represented in the prospective refurnishing. What period should be selected?

First, the period for representation should be late during the time of occupancy because this will permit the largest accumulation of furnishings evidence while the Griersons were living at Fort Davis. Second, the period should be one during which most, if

1. Robert M. Utley, Fort Davis National Historic Site, Texas, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, Historical Handbook Series No. 38 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1965), pp. 56-61.

2. Ibid, p. 58

not all, of the family were present at the home. This will promote the widest interpretation of the family and its use of the structure. It will also heighten the sense of activity in and around the quarters.

Grierson family correspondence establishes the arrival of the family at Fort Davis about the end of December 1882. The family consisted of the Colonel, his wife, Alice, and four sons, Charles, Robert, George and Benjamin Henry (Harry or Harrie), Jr. At this time, Charles was on detached service with the 10th Cavalry. He was a Lieutenant in his father's regiment and not with the rest of the family when they arrived at their new home.³ Nevertheless, his father's quarters appear to be home for him as well--⁴at least for a time.

Available correspondence for the period in question indicates that the family lived together at the quarters until late in September, 1884 when Mrs. Grierson and her son, Harry, visited the family homestead in Jacksonville, Illinois, and made an excursion to Chicago.⁵ Robert, who had a good job with the Quartermaster, remained at Fort Davis with George and Charles.⁶

3. John Kirk to Alice Grierson, Dec. 13, 1882. Unless otherwise noted letters or their copies referred to in this study are contained in the files of Fort Davis National Historic Site.

4. Alice Grierson (Hereafter "A") to her husband, Col. Benjamin Henry Grierson (Hereafter "G"), Sept. 28, 1883.

5. G to A, Sept. 26, 1884. Other letters indicate that visits to Jacksonville, Illinois, were frequent with Mrs. Grierson. Also A to G, Oct. 5, 1884 and Oct. 17, 1884.

6. G to A, Oct. 4, 1884 and Oct. 17, 1884

The following month, October, Charles moved out of his father's quarters and "into the new house which is set aside for bachelors."⁷

That the family was together from December, 1882, until late September, 1884, is strengthened by an absence of correspondence between members of the immediate family during this time except for occasional letters between the Colonel and his wife when he was on brief official travel. It can be assumed that Charles was frequently in the field for there were many reasons for a young Lieutenant on the frontier to be away from the Fort. There is, however, little correspondence from Charles during this period, a fact that suggests that if he were absent from the fort, it would have been for no more than a day or two.

One of the trips taken by Colonel Grierson was to Fort Stockton in late June or early July, 1883--but he was not gone long.⁸ In late September that same year, the Colonel traveled to San Antonio to appear as a witness before a court martial and the following month was joined by his wife. The proceedings dragged on and delayed his return but he was back at Fort Davis in November.⁹

7. Helen Davis to A, October 4, 1884.

8. G to A, July 13, 1883.

9. John Kirk to G, Nov. 5, 1883. A to her son, Harry, Oct. 26, 1883.

In mid-August, 1884, the Colonel once again made a brief trip to San Antonio.¹⁰ He returned to spend the following month of October with his sons, Robert and George.¹¹

By early November the Colonel was on the road to Fort Concho on his way, probably to Jacksonville, but ultimately to New York City and Washington, D. C. to "lobby" for a General's commission.¹² It is possible that he left young George in the care of Helen Davis, a relative of the Griersons who married an officer in the 10th Cavalry.¹³

On December 8, 1884, Colonel Grierson wrote to his wife Alice from Washington, D. C. that he would be back at Fort Davis by the end of the month.¹⁴ By Christmas the family was back together again at Fort Davis and stayed together until late March the following year. Early that month Colonel Grierson received orders to move his regiment to Arizona. Alice, his wife, prepared to return to Jacksonville and the Colonel began packing for Whipple Barracks.¹⁵

10. G to A, August 17, 1884.

11. G to A, Oct. 4 and Oct. 27, 1884.

12. G to A, Nov. 4, Dec. 1 and Dec. 3, 1884.

13. Helen Davis to A, Nov. 8, 1884.

14. G to A, Dec. 8, 1884.

15. Department of Texas Order, March 5, 1885; also, Colonel Grierson to his wife, April 6, 1885.

Time Chart

The foregoing narrative traces the location of members of the Grierson family during the time Colonel Grierson occupied the CO's Quarters at Fort Davis. For easy reference the following chart summarizes the narrative.

Time span

Disposition of Grierson Family

1	Dec 4, 1882	Colonel Grierson, his wife Alice, sons Charles, Robert, George, and Harry. Charles is only intermittently at home.
2	mid-June, 1883	Colonel Grierson absent
3	mid-July, 1883	Colonel Grierson present
4	late Sept, 1883	Colonel Grierson present
5	early Nov, 1883	Col. Grierson absent. Alice and Charles with him in San Antonio in Oct. George, Harry, and Robert at Davis.
6	early-Aug, 1884	Colonel Grierson present
7	late Aug, 1884	Colonel Grierson Absent
8	early Sept, 1884	Colonel Grierson present; [up to the end of this period the family is with the exception of the Colonel's and Charles' absences on brief trips.]
9	early Oct, 1884	Mrs. Grierson and Harry absent--visiting in Jacksonville Illinois
10	early Nov, 1884	Charles moves into separate quarters during 1st week of October; Mrs. Grierson still absent.
11	late Dec, 1884	George and Robert alone at house; Robert has his own quarters but is staying temporarily with George. Colonel Grierson on trip to Northeast. Charlie is at the Post.
12	late March, 1885	Colonel Grierson, his wife Alice, and sons Robert, George, and Harry present. In March of 1885 the Colonel was preparing to move to Arizona and Alice traveled to Jacksonville, Illinois, during the transfer.

It is evident from the foregoing chart that the period for refurnishing that meets the criteria is period 7 since it is a time during which the entire family is together and is a period relatively late in the Grierson occupancy at Fort Davis--late enough, that is, to document certain household purchases and alterations in the appearance of the grounds.

That period also offers the opportunity to interpret the position in the family of Charles Grierson, the lieutenant-son of Colonel Grierson. Furthermore, this father-son relationship was not uncommon in the army--in fact, on the frontier, regiments were often populated by relatives and in-laws of the Colonel. This was a feature of frontier military life that could be told via the CO's Quarters.

The Occupants

In August of 1884 the Griersons were a family of six:

(1)	Col. Benjamin Henry Grierson	Age	58
(2)	Alice Kirk Grierson, wife	"	56
(3)	Charles H., son	"	29
(4)	Robert K., son	"	23
(5)	Benjamin Henry, Jr., son	"	16
(6)	George Theodore, son	"	15

The Colonel was a tall man for his day, about 5'11" with dark brown to black hair and dark eyes. He wore a heavy full beard--some say to cover a facial scar he received as a youngster from being kicked by a horse. A photograph of the Colonel taken about the time he commanded at Fort Davis is available in the files of the historic site (Illustration No. 1). It is a framed portrait which likely hung in the Colonel's residence. Other photographs taken while the Griersons were stationed at Fort Sill, Indian Territory, reveal the striking character of Colonel Grierson in poses almost dramatic (Illustrations No. 2a, b, c and d). An early photograph, probably taken shortly after Colonel Grierson married Alice Kirk shows the couple during their younger days (Illustration No. 3). A later photograph of Alice is retained in the Fort Davis files along with one of Robert Grierson

probably taken shortly before the family moved to Fort Davis. Two photos of Charles Grierson have survived which show him posing in uniform perhaps upon graduation from West Point and assignment to the 10th Cavalry in 1879 (Illustrations Nos. 4a and b). It is believed that paintings of the Colonel and his wife are contained in the collection of the Fort Concho Museum, San Angelo, Texas. That repository also holds a portrait of Edith Grierson, the Colonel's daughter, who died of typhoid fever while the family resided at Fort Concho. The portrait may be the one that the Griersons took to every succeeding Post and displayed and decorated as a memorial to their deceased daughter. If it is, it was one of the most revered objects in the family's household.

No identifiable photographs of George or Harry have been located. However, one or more of the photos found in the collection of Grierson household effects donated to Fort Davis by Mrs. Martha C. Frank, may be of sons or of some other relatives. As of now, their appearance during the Fort Davis years remains a matter of conjecture.

The Griersons were well-to-do. They could afford the finest and did in fact buy the best--at the Colonel's insistence. The Colonel inherited a portion of a sizable estate, had large

holdings of stocks and bonds and many investments in real estate and ranch property throughout the country.¹⁶ Mrs. Grierson came from a wealthy family, and apparently inherited a moderate estate from her father, John Kirk. An abundance of correspondence and invoices reveals that the Colonel had his clothes tailored at Brooks Bros. in New York City and purchased housewares from Tiffany, Lord and Taylor, and jewelry from Jaccards.¹⁷ The Griersons retained at least two full-time servants and frequently three or four.¹⁸ When moving they shipped their household goods including heavy furniture, a piano, a coach and a buggy--a practice that could easily be afforded only by officers enjoying a source of independent wealth.¹⁹

The significant activities of the family are those that add a special quality to the household. For example, we know that Mrs. Grierson was skillful with home crafts and had artistic ability. She knitted, crocheted, and even painted at Fort Davis. Other members of the family had an artistic bent. Robert, Harry and George all drew and sketched.²⁰ Hunting was a popular

16. Louisa Semple to G, Feb. 25, 1883; also John Kirk to G March 5, and Nov. 5, 1883; Gano Bros. to G, May 10, 1884; John Kirk to A, June 21, 1884.

17. G to A, April 9 and 10, 1879.

18. A to G, July 27, 1880.

19. G to Harry, Nov. 10, 1882. Also G to A, June 2, 1882.

20. John Kirk to A, May 21, 1883. Harry Grierson to A, Aug. 15, 1881; A to Robert, July 24, 1880. Several portfolios of the sketches of both Harry and George are in the files of Fort Davis. Harry was evidently more talented than George.

pastime to the Colonel and his sons, particularly George and Harry, who often set out in the company of a servant to the area of Victoria to bag ducks, antelope, and other game and do a little fishing as well. Father and sons even belonged to the fort's gun club and participated in its activities.²¹

Reading was very popular with the Griersons and family correspondence abundantly reveals the type of literature they read. It was wide-ranging--popular and professional magazines, novels, non-fiction, and children's literature. Robert was particularly adept with foreign languages and read a considerable number of Spanish and, particularly, German language textbooks.²²

Games of many kinds were popular with the family--chess, cards (particularly whist and cribbage), checkers, and backgammon.²³

Tradition has it that gardening was a popular avocation of the family, especially of the Colonel. This assertion can be confirmed. Colonel Grierson was always concerned about the appearance of the grounds and insisted on the care of the front yards of the officers' quarters.²⁴ He enjoyed the vegetables and melons grown nearby at a ranch he owned but he likely also had a small garden plot at his quarters. It was common practice for officers to raise vegetables and feed poultry in their backyards and Alice

21. A to G, Sept. 28, 1883. G to A, Aug. 10, 1881 and June 2, 1882.

22. G to A, Oct. 1, 1883.

23. A to G, May 26, 1886.

24. G to A, Oct. 10, 1884.

Grierson wrote to her husband at Fort Davis in 1884, "I am glad your garden is doing so well, and that some of the peaches have been preserved and pickled."²⁵ A fig tree still grows beside the present quarters at Fort Davis. The oldest residents in town remember it. It has been cut down several times but continues its struggle for survival, sending up sprouts to a height of about five feet. It could be cultivated since it is possible the Griersons enjoyed it during their occupancy.

Later, at Whipple Barracks in Arizona, the Griersons certainly pursued gardening, raising lettuce, radishes, and probably other vegetables as well. At that post they also had a bevy of turkeys in their front yard.²⁶ Earlier, at Fort Concho, the family enjoyed the fruit from their peach tree and cultivated other fruits and vegetables as well.²⁷

Music was an integral part of the life of the Grierson family. As a young man, Grierson learned to play all the major band instruments and was a member of an early traveling band formed in the area of Youngstown, Ohio. After a short time he became the band leader.²⁸ He wrote songs--lyrics as well as music--and arranged

25. A to G, Oct. 19, 1884.

26. A to G, May 24, 1886.

27. G to A, Aug. 8, 1881; Harry to A Aug. 15, 1881.

28. Grierson's early life is revealed in a manuscript written by him. It was intended as an autobiography entitled "Lights and Shadows of Life," and was for distribution only to family and friends. Xerox copies of the manuscript are in the files of Fort Davis National Historic Site. The document is incomplete and ends with Grierson's Civil War experience.

band music.²⁹ This talent and interest accompanied him to the frontier. In fact, it is not difficult to imagine the Colonel taking up the baton himself and leading the Regimental Band at Post "hops" and musicales.

At Fort Davis, practically all members of the family played musical instruments. They played the piano, guitar, violin, and perhaps others. While at Fort Concho, the Colonel and his sons, Charlie and Harry, received an instruction book for guitar at Fort Davis and were quite accomplished with the accordion and violin.³⁰ Family and friends gathered frequently for song fests, musicales, dances and duets.

During the Civil War, Grierson enjoyed cigars and hard liquor. His wife did not approve of his smoking or drinking and the Colonel, during frontier days, wrote to Alice on occasion assuring her that he had given up these habits to which she replied, "I am thankful my husband does not muddle his brains with Whiskey."³¹ However, Mrs. Martha C. Frank, the Colonel's grand-niece, remembers her uncle as a man who carefully shielded his fragile

29. Some of Grierson's music was donated to Fort Davis by Mrs. Martha C. Frank, grand-niece of General Grierson. It consists of bound volumes of sheet music for piano and voice, at least one original composition, and an unknown number of arrangements and exercises. Also, Robert Grierson to his father, Oct. 14, 1880.

30. G to A, July 29 and Aug. 17, 1881; Harry to A, Aug. 6, 1882.

31. A to G, April 17, 1880; G to A, April 13, 1879.

wife from the truth of this matter and she believes, did in fact continue to smoke and drink although not in Alice's presence.³²

Beer and wine, however, seem to have been acceptable beverages in the household. A cask or two of the former could be found in the kitchen and both the Colonel and his wife would take a social drink of claret.³³

The Griersons entertained visitors, top brass, and officers and their wives, although not as much at Fort Davis as earlier. They were getting older and tiring more easily and confined most festivities to holidays. They were gay enough affairs with singing, dancing and eating but Alice felt that her guests should have the grace to retire by midnight.

Colonel Grierson's wife, Alice, seems to have been a somber and fragile personality. Her husband frequently cautioned her about worrying so and tried to cheer her up constantly. Although not a frivolous man, Grierson was more buoyant than his wife who he called his "gray dove"³⁴ --a name which indicates Alice's personality. There was about Mrs. Grierson a certain mournful quality,

32. A to G, May 26, 1886; G to A, July 21, 1881. Also, personal interview with Mrs. Frank at Jacksonville, Ill., Aug. 22, 1967.

33. Ibid. Also, G to A, June 2, 1882.

34. Ibid.

a characteristic enhanced by many painful family experiences. The Griersons lost two children in infancy and their only daughter, Edith, died in her teens. Edith's passing was almost devastating to both the Colonel and his wife. With her death their exuberance vanished. They were further exhausted by the torment of mental illness that afflicted their two older sons and threatened the two younger ones.³⁵

Alice Grierson's subdued and retiring personality was reflected in her tastes. In decorating her home and selecting her dresses, she favored subdued tones--black, gray and brown, and the pastel shades over brilliant colors. These preferences were demonstrated in the drapery, carpeting and clothing she selected.

The Griersons regarded their quarters at Fort Davis as the best they had lived in on the frontier. The Colonel felt his home at Fort Davis was far superior to that at Fort Concho. He inspected the house as commanding officer of the District of the Pecos and was quite envious of the home that Colonel Andrews occupied. Correspondence between the Colonel and his wife prior to the move to Fort Davis indicates they intended to furnish their new home better than the former ones. They sold some of their furnishings, purchased many new items, and prepared to install a fresh decor.³⁶

35. G to A, May 17, 1882, July 28, 1879, and Sept. 7, 1879.

36. G to A, June 25 and June 30, 1882. Also G to A, Oct. 18, 1880.

Use of the House

The only known historic floor plan of the Commanding Officer's Quarters (estimated date, 1889) was located in the National Archives and, at one time, probably accompanied a Public Building Inspection report. A copy of the original, which contains the plans of many other structures as well is contained in the Fort Davis files and a copy is appended to this report (Illustration No. 5).

There are two letters which, if taken together, contradict the use of the rooms indicated by the floor plan. The first was written by Alice Grierson from Fort Davis to her husband on October 5, 1883, in which she refers to the "back parlor." Again in a letter to his mother, Robert Grierson referred, in a letter of August 10, 1885, to the "parlors," thus indicating that the family maintained more than one parlor. One was probably where guests were entertained -- very likely the one indicated in the floor plan. The other, located between the dining room and parlor, would have been the "back parlor" or family room. Not only does this seem a reasonable arrangement, but the middle room's being the more casual of the two is indicated by the sentence in Mrs. Grierson's letter, "Harry . . . is lying on the lounge in the back parlor." The intended use of the rooms assigned by the floor plan tends to be confirmed by

structural remains. The dining room has wall markings indicating shelves and buffets and the plaster walls behind the shelves contain notches impressed by stacks of plates having been shoved into place. The bedroom walls bear scars of the wardrobes installed beside the fireplaces. The small room off the northwest bedroom is not identified in the historic floor plan but evidence of plumbing and a tub indicates that this was the bathroom. The kitchen buildings traditionally encompassed servants quarters as well.³⁷

Some of the fixtures indicated above certainly were part of the structure when the Griersons inhabited it. In 1880 the Colonel visited Fort Davis and was put up at the CO's Quarters vacated temporarily by the post commander. He wrote to his wife Alice,

I am all alone in my glory in the Commanding Officer's Quarters. . . . I have examined the quarters thoroughly. The rooms are well provided with closets, cupboards, wardrobes . . . and are far more comfortable and commodious than our quarters at Concho.³⁸

It should be remembered that a house is a virtual living entity -- an extension of the personalities that occupy it. This residence, too, reflected the temperments and tastes of the Griersons and it may well have been rearranged a time or two to fit the needs of the household as the family understood those needs.

37. Structural evidence of interior fixtures is reviewed in the Historic Structures Report, Part II, Commanding Officer's Quarters, HB-7, Fort Davis. The architectural data in that report is indispensable to the Furnishing Plan and should be regarded as an integral document.

38. G to A, Oct. 18, 1880.

One last item should be emphasized. The overcrowding of the post led to a congestion of the Colonel's residence that must have been an evident feature of the household. This was a characteristic not confined to Fort Davis but which tormented many garrisons on the frontier at different times. In the case of the Grierson home relatives at the post occasionally stayed at the quarters. Cousins Helen Davis and Grace Maxon, wives of Lieutenants in the 10th Cavalry, would move in at times when their husbands were ordered into the field.³⁹ And so the Colonel's home must have reflected, at least, preparation for intensive use.

39. Charles Grierson to his father Nov. 17, 1884; G to A Oct. 13, 1884.

PART D: Evidence of Original Furnishings

The attempt here is to document the presence of objects and fixtures in the Commanding Officer's Quarters during August 1884, which is the indicated period of refurnishing. This objective reasonably includes the appearance of the grounds as well as the structure.

Of greatest weight in substantiating the furnishings of the quarters during the time in question would be documents composed during that very time. These consist of Grierson family correspondence.

There is not a great deal of furnishings evidence springing directly from the selected period. The correspondence of that time is skimpy and this is due to the fact that Mrs. Grierson spent most of her time in Fort Davis and did not travel back to the Jacksonville homestead as frequently as before, a fact which severely curtailed her corresponding. This is not to say that the available correspondence is not abundant. The Grierson papers are indeed numerous but the greatest bulk of letters occurred when the Colonel and his wife were separated for long periods of time. Both husband and wife were faithful correspondents and their diligent pens left us a remarkable historical record.

The following scheme will be used in itemizing the furnishings of the Commanding Officer's Quarters insofar as they can be historically documented. The analysis of the documents is concerned with three periods: (1) The time of Grierson occupancy, (2) the period prior to Grierson occupancy and (3) the period after the Griersons vacated the residence. References to relevant documents are given in parentheses immediately following the statement on each object or class of objects. Standard footnotes are dispensed with since in this case they are not the most convenient way of handling the narrative.

Grierson Occupancy, 1882-85

1. Closets, cupboards and wardrobes

These are mentioned but not described. They were built-in and analysis of the structure's wall would reveal more detail about their features. An ornate standing wardrobe is owned by Mrs. C. Espy Miller, Fort Davis. She obtained it from one of the Colonel's sons in later years. He told her that it came from the CO's Quarters. (G to A, Oct. 18, 1880.)

2. Lounge

"Harry . . . is lying on the lounge in the back parlor." (A to G, Oct. 5, 1883.)

3. Watch Baseball
Bible Walnut box

"I bought a silver watch for you [Harry] when I was in Chicago. It is an Elgin, a nice size, and said to be a very good kind. . . . Grandpa bought quite an expensive Bible for you. George has a baseball. . . . I also have a nice walnut box with glass lid which will be just the thing for bird's eggs." (A to Harry, Oct. 1, 1882.)

4. Pocket inkstand

"I suppose there is ink in the pocket inkstand George brought but the lid is screwed on so tight. . . ." (A to G, April 6, 1883.)

5. Artist supplies and equipment

"... the two paintings came duly to hand and they are quite handsome.. . . I was not aware that you could paint so well." (John Kirk to A, May 21, 1883.)

6. Carpeting

Two bales of carpets arrived at Fort Davis. Carpeting was ordered especially for Fort Davis. The colors were subdued. The carpets were large and used extensively throughout the house. (S.L. Woodward to G Oct. 10, 1882.)

"The parlor carpet is Brussels and the predominant colors are browns and drabs so fashionable now - it is very handsome. . . . The stair carpet is . . . very pretty, the centre being of different shades of brown, with a narrow border each side of bright colors." This is not a description of carpeting at Fort Davis but is presented here to suggest Mrs. Grierson's taste in floor covering (A to G, May 4, 1875.)

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 7. Carpet | Lard bucket |
| Drugget | Overcoat |
| Milk bucket | |
-

"The carpet, drugget, overcoat and graham flour . . . came all right. . . . I want a regular milk bucket with a strainer attached." (A to G April [?], 1883.)

8. Drapes

Robert bought a pair of curtains "the same kind we had in the parlors here and which cost about \$25.00. . . . The curtains are of a dull red or maroon color with horizontal stripes of all the colors of the rainbow. Mrs. Hardie also gave me the oak rod and rings to hang the curtains on." (Robert to his mother, Aug. 10, 1885.)

9. Buggy and equipment

Buggy wheel being fixed. (G to A, July 13, 1883.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| 10. Folding carpet chairs | Maps |
| Spiral bedsprings | Satchel |
| Rocking chair | |
-

These items were sent to Lt. Davis' residence and may have been returned by Aug., 1884. The letter refers to the Colonel's maps and satchel resting on the window sill. (A to G Sept. 23, 1883.)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 11. Sales catalogs | Carbines |
| Medicine ("chalk powders") | |
-

Many letters indicate a great many number of catalogs were received by the Griersons. Most of them were from stylish stores in the east. As to the carbines -- Harry was reported to have gotten "another" carbine from the band detachment. (G to A, Sept. 26, 1884 and A to G, Sept. 28, 1883.)

12. Medicines (mostly sedatives)

Robert was under medication in late spring. (Series of letters dated May and June, 1883.)

13. Newspapers	<u>Harper's Weekly</u>
Magazines	<u>Leslies</u>
Novel, <u>Rob Roy</u>	

The Griersons were avid readers, receiving more than one of the big city papers. The regimental library was sizable and books were frequently borrowed. One volume, The Works of Charles Lamb, is in a group of books donated to the Sul Ross State College library in Alpine, Texas. It is stamped in gold letters across a leather binding, "10th Cavalry Regimental Library," or words to that effect. Such books would have been found in the Griersons' Quarters. The library contained newspapers like the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, New York Herald, and Philadelphia Inquirer. A more detailed listing of the library's holdings is contained in official reports on microfilm at Fort Davis. (G to A, Oct. 1, 1883.)

14. Chess set
Chess or checker table

Mrs. Grierson wrote that the game of chess fascinated her. The table is referred to in scattered correspondence. (A to G, Oct. 9, 1883.)

15. Fringed shawl
Afghan

These items are typical of those that Alice might knit or
crochet. (Helen Davis to A, May 4 and June 16, 1884.)

16. Carving knife	Steel
Fork	Gold-rimmed eyeglasses ("specks")

The Colonel purchased the carving set while in San Antonio and left his eyeglasses to be repaired. (G to A, Aug. 17, 1884.)

17. The garden

Almost certainly the front and back yards were replete with flowers, possibly some vegetables and one or two fruit trees. Most of the vegetables and fruit, however, were brought up from the private ranch nearby. (G to A, Oct. 10 and 26, 1884.)

18. Landscaping

"Have finished up the grass plots in front of the Officers Quarters. Have had the walks rolled and nicely smoothened up and the street put in order on the west side of the line of trees." As indicated by the date of this source, the entire grounds job was not completed in August but it is reasonable that the CO's Quarters was the first to be accomplished. (G to A, Oct. 4, 1884.)

The landscape plan for Fort Davis indicates much of the historic grounds layout and details can be extracted from the historic photographs filed at the Historic Site.

19. Musical exercises

Charles and Harry were to receive Czerny's exercises for piano
(E. K. Fuller to G April 27, 1883.)

20. Bicycle
Buggy

"My bicycle is still lying at Marfa and it begins to look as though the Company had no intention of doing anything about it. . . . Last Friday George and I went in my buggy to Victoria on a duck hunt." (Robert Grierson to his mother, Oct. 14, 1884.)

21. Robert's eyeglasses

If you go to Dr. Arthur Prince's don't forget these spectacles. . . . I want large sized lenses - shell frames to hook over the ears and want the glasses to sit well on the nose. [He draws a picture of the glasses.] (Robert Grierson to his mother, Sept. 29, 1884.)

22. Handkerchiefs Socks
Scarf

"I wish you would buy me about 2 doz. fine soft large linen handkerchiefs and a flat wine colored scarf of best quality. . . . I gave papa the lisle thread red socks." (Robert Grierson to his mother, Nov. 15, 1884.)

23. Carpets Chests
Sewing machine

Charles had just arrived at the new post of Fort Davis and wrote about receiving these objects and awaiting the arrival of the rest of the family. "All the baggage has arrived and ours is stored about the house. Your machine is rather battered up. One of my chests was broken pretty badly. I think most of the things came in very good condition. . . . I have not unpacked as I did not know where the carpet ought to go. . . ." (Charles Grierson to his mother, Aug. 13, 1882.)

Carpeting laid in the quarters. (Harry to his mother, Oct. 8, 1882.)

Something should be said at this point of existing objects known in some way to have been part of the Grierson household at Fort Davis. There are other objects owned by people in Fort Davis and the general vicinity which were at one time a part of the Grierson estate. These may be donated in time by their owners. And a number of people have expressed a desire to assist the refurnishing project by such gifts. Beside Mrs. Miller, Mr. "Dude" Sproul, who has shown a keen interest in the development of the Historic Site might assist with the identification and securing of pertinent Grierson furnishings known to exist throughout the Big Bend Country.

One example of the type of object that might be found is a ship model that Harry Grierson constructed. Model building was apparently a hobby of his and one sailing ship he put together was called the "Only Daughter" -- probably a memorial name for his sister, Edith, who died as a young girl when the family resided at Fort Concho. Mrs. Frank recalls seeing the model ship in someone's home in Fort Davis but can't remember its exact location. These objects remained at Fort Davis with Robert who managed the ranches when the Colonel moved on to Arizona. Eventually, Harry and George settled at Fort Davis retaining in the vicinity much that was used earlier at the quarters. These

furnishings were sold or given away to friends and became scattered, in some cases so widely dispersed that there is little hope for their recovery.

Mrs. Frank fortunately preserved a few Grierson objects of value at her home in Jacksonville, Illinois. She gave a presentation sword, a silver tray or waiter, and some sterling silverware to her son Dr. Walter C. Frank, Jr. The waiter (Illustration No. 6) is said to have been given to Grierson by the Loyal Ladies of Baton Rouge on the completion of his famous raid through Mississippi during the Civil War. The initials of the Loyal Ladies are engraved on the tray as are those of someone other than Grierson. Furthermore, the date on the tray is July, 1865 while the Grierson raid occurred in 1863. The above circumstances of his obtaining the waiter would, therefore, have to be questioned. However, it is very reasonably a Grierson piece and we know from the correspondence that a silver waiter and accompanying pieces were used by the family at Fort Davis. The silverware is said to have come down through the family with its pieces being scattered among relatives. Two spoons are owned by Dr. Frank, Jr. (Illustration No. 7) and one carries an engraved crest of a standing lion holding what may be a flower. On one, above the lion to the edge of the spoon's handle is a shell design. A presentation sword

(Illustration No. 8) was given to General Grierson by the officers and men who served with him. Mrs. Frank believes the sword was presented on his retirement in 1890 but the possibility of the sword's being a Civil War piece must not be ruled out. Further investigation of this matter is required for a determination of the time of presentation. Such a sword, would open a door to the interpretation of Grierson's Civil War record which is an extremely important demension to the man.

Many other Grierson furnishings wisely preserved by Mrs. Frank and graciously donated by her to the Park Service for the refurnishing project include:

1. A carved ivory chess set
2. Framed portrait of Grierson
3. A photograph album
4. A wooden stand
5. Two small chalk boards
6. An album of political cartoons

Mrs. Frank also offered to donate a wine decanter, a group of maps, and two wooden army chests belonging to the Griersons and used on the frontier. She permitted the copying of a number of photographs which can be of use in the refurnished quarters. These were reproduced in sepia tone like the original and should add another authentic touch to the household.

After the Griersons left Fort Davis

In some cases we can document furnishings by writings after the period in question, either by direct reference back to something having been at the Fort Davis residence or by inferring it was there and was taken to the new post.

1. Charlie's Buckboard": It is possible that Colonel Grierson's son Charles had his own wagon at Fort Davis. (G to A, April 16, 1885)

2. Copies of the Journal of the American Akademe: This was a local organization at Jacksonville, Illinois. (Louisa Semple to G May 31, 1885. Louisa Semple to A August 4, 1885.)

3. Piano: Not enough room for it at Whipple Barracks, Arizona, (new post) so Colonel Grierson stored it in the guardhouse. The beand name of this piano (Hazelton Bros.) does not agree with the one the Griersons had at Fort Davis. They probably left the Chickering at the family ranch and obtained the Hazelton Bros. instrument for Arizona. (G to A, June 1, 1885; also May 24, 1885.)

4. Looking glasses and crockery: Also apparently shipped along. (G to A, May 24, 1885.)

5, Wagons, horses, and harness: The Colonel is selling some of his horses and wagons. The indication is that the following were at Fort Davis: 5 horses, 2 mules, and 3 ponies; a wagon purchased

at "Kesey's" which was the local store at Fort Davis and the "Old Hack" which was probably the large couch referred to in earlier letters. He still had the buggy and planned to keep the horse, "Eagle," and the three ponies. He sold a set of harness for \$250 which seems to suggest a fine piece of leatherwork. (G to A, May 31, 1885.)

6. Fishing tackle and bicycle

The bicycle Robert is riding back at Fort Davis where he stayed he says is "55 inches or 3 inches taller than the old one [George] used to ride." It is probable that a 53 in. bicycle was at Fort Davis. George also fished. (Robert to A, June 10, 1885.)

7. Portrait of the Colonel's Father: (G to A, June 10, 1885.)

8. Clock that musical and pleasant tones of the clock struck midnight; also copies of the "Army Library Journal: (G to A, June 12, 1885.)

9. Violin: Harry is mastering the violin (Louisa Semple to G, August 1, 1885.)

10. "Winslow chairs, canvases, mirror": At Fort Grant the chairs and mirror were being crated. They may have had them at Fort Davis. A reading of "Winslow's chairs" is also possible.

Before the Griersons Moved in

The objects enumerated in this section are those used by the Grierson family prior to their arrival at Fort Davis. Reviewed here are only those items which reasonably could have been taken to the new post from Fort Concho.

1. Books

A fair number of foreign language texts and readers were around the house. Robert studied languages and seems to have excelled in German. He wrote several letters in German and was quite proud of his achievement. He studied Spanish as well and was developing a fluency in it. (W. E. Knollenberg to Robert Grierson, April 3, 1881; Robert to his mother, July 26, 1880.)

Even the Colonel tried his hand with foreign languages and studied French. He proclaimed his ability to read French, took a French language newspaper and even planned to study Italian and German as well. (G to A, August 15, 16, and 28, 1881.)

Numerous mail order catalogs from Altmans and other fine houses in the east could be found about the household. (G to A, July 17, 1881.) Books on chess were plentiful. (Conversation with Mrs. Frank.) The Griersons took Scribner's Monthly, the North American Review, and the N. Y. Graphic. (G to A, July 29, 1881; July 18, 1879.) Six volumes of Romer's Readers and several

physiology and histology textbooks were in evidence (Robert to his mother, Sept. 17 and Nov. 6, 1881.) The Colonel was taking Ordnance Notes. (A to G Oct. 19[?], 1880.)

"I wish . . . you would send the St. Louis Globe Democrat to me after it has been read at the house."
(Charles to his mother, May 14, 1880.)

"Helen was at the Regimental library today and brought home Thackeray's Vanity Fair and a volume of Emerson's lectures and essays." (A to Charles, Feb. 4, 1877.)

The Grierons received Field, Farm and Garden. (A to G, Nov. 7, 1879.) Botany for Young People by Gray was ordered in conjunction with botany lessons. (A to Robert, April 22, 1877.)

"Two new catalogues came today. . . . They are Doyle and Adolphis. We have no lack of catalogues and fashion papers." (A to G, Nov. 8, 1878)

The Colonel read A History of Germany and Plutarchs Lives.
(G to A, Aug. 27, 1876.) Also Daniel Deronda and "Bancrofts U. S. History." (G to A, Oct. 29 and Dec. 10, 1876.)

2. Clothing

The Colonel purchased some of his clothing from Brooks Brothers in New York City--"another pair of white linen pants and their best linen vest, -- as well as slippers for the boys." (G to A, July 8, 1881.) At different times he ordered a white night shirt, a half dozen "good brown English hose, No. 10, a \$12 "citizens suit," a "rubber coat" and a hunting coat. (G to A, July 24 and Sept. 16, 1881.) On a shopping trip the Colonel picked up a

light overcoat, hat, military cap, collars, and cups for tea.

At Altman's in New York he bought undershorts, drawers, shirts, collars, cuffs, neckties and half hose as well as a pocket book, all for \$20.00. (G to A, April 7 and 27, 1879.) Charles enjoyed his mother's gift of a long dressing gown. (A to G, Nov. 8, 1878.)

Alice reported that she had received her things from Altman's except "my cashmere dress. . . ." (A to G, Nov. 8, 1878.)

Alice asked her husband to purchase a black alpaca coat for Harry. (A to G, July 26, 1877.) The Colonel used a straight cane.

"I lost my cane at Cogsville Station. . . . It is an old acquaintance." It was returned to him. (G to A, Aug. 21, 1876.

"Dude" Sproul of Fort Davis owns several of Grierson's canes.)

The Colonel owned a linen duster, silk cap, and slippers -- "They served me well and added no small amount to my comfort." (G to A, Aug. 22, 1876.)

" . . . bring me a pair of [buckskin?] or dog skin guantlets. . . ." "I do not want sheepskin gloves, but dog skin, buckskin, or calfskin . . . neat and well made and not too long and clumsy." (G to A, Oct. 23, 1876)

The boys masqueraded in "Indian things" and made tents of "gunny sacks, shawls, and umbrellas." The Indian costumes were composed of what appears to be authentic Indian pieces bought by the Colonel on a trip to San Antonio. The items included a shield

and war bonnet. (A to G, April 29, 1880. Harry to his mother, July 19, 1881.) These objects may still be obtainable. This writer has heard that such a bonnet and shield are part of the museum collection of the West Texas Scientific and Historical Society. The collection is currently in storage and its destiny is not certain. The story about these pieces is that they were used by the Apache Chieftain, Victorio. The letters referred to above cast doubt on this tradition.

Robert received a pair of hunting boots and ordered a pair of shoes and rubbers. (Robert to his mother, Nov. 6, 1881.) Harry obtained a rubber coat. (A to Harry, Oct. 15, 1882.)

3. Food

Lemonade with ice was a frequent delight and the ice wagon delivered to Fort Davis as well as Concho. The Colonel was especially fond of raspberries and homemade ice cream and the children frequently engaged in a "watermelon feast." In fact melons were a major item in season--watermelons, musk melons and cantaloupe. At Fort Concho the Colonel had potatoes delivered since they were not obtainable locally. (G to A, July 4, 7 and 10, 1881. Harry to his mother July 19, 1881.)

4. Field desk and walnut bureau

"If you were charged \$5.90 extra baggage on that field desk, I think it was pretty good. . . . I was charged only five dollars for taking that large walnut chest through to Austin. (A to G, July 25, 1879.)

5. "Table cloths and hand-glass"

The glass was a birthday present and the Colonel was very pleased with it. It was probably a fancy magnifying glass.

(G to A, July 13, 1881.)

6. Ice-box

At Fort Concho the Griersons "set up a refrigerator" on the porch. It had come from Fort Griffin which indicates it was an item the family ordinarily moved with. (G to A, July 13, 1881.)

7. Edith's picture and house plants

Colonel Grierson described the picture of his daughter who died in 1878 in her teens. It was still entwined with a vine that had been growing around it. The vine may have been that of a "medusa" plant but the name is not clear in the letter. Sometime later the plant was replaced with a potato vine and grew up nicely about the picture. (G to A, July 15 and 21, 1881.)

8. Iron safe

At Fort Concho, Colonel Grierson had placed an iron safe in his bedroom. In it he had his money, Harry's pocket book, Edith's things, his gold watch and printed records. The safe was apparently a government safe he brought from Griffin. Probably he could have transferred it to Fort Davis as well.

9. Guns and equipment

Colonel Grierson had two sets of gun tools apparently for double barreled shotguns which had their straps missing. One of his shotguns was a very fine one for which his son Charles offered him \$150. He said it was an "excellent gun and will last a lifetime." Robert owned a Winchester which he took along while accompanying his father on the Victorio campaign. In 1879 he ordered a breech-loading shotgun from Boston and a year later considered purchasing a Lefever Hammerless Sporting Gun which was supposed to be a fine and expensive weapon of its day. (G to A, Aug. 4, 1881; D. Lefever to R. K. Grierson, Nov. 24, 1880.) "A Dream," Robert K. Grierson, Jan. 15, 1879--This is a composition written by Robert Grierson in which he reminisces about the breech-loading gun.

"Papa [Colonel Grierson] has gotten his new Remington gun with the fixtures." (A to Robert, March 4, 1877.)

10. Blinds and Curtains

The correspondence refers to "the blinds in Robert's bedroom, curtains in Charlie's room, and the curtains of the upper bedroom window at Concho done of brown muslin. (G to A, Aug. 6 and 12 and Sept. 16, 1881.)

11. Grounds

Flower growing seems to have been a common pastime at the officers' quarters and in 1881, Colonel Grierson wrote to his

wife, "Our morning glories are the best at the post. I had Moss drive stakes at the outer edge of the beds and by tying strings thus to the slats and getting the vines to grow up from the outside the entire porch is nicely covered with the vines."

(G to A, Aug. 9, 1881.)

Writing to Alice following a visit at Fort Davis, the Colonel said, "There are some very respectable looking live oak trees of good size in rear of the officers' quarters. There is also a line of small cottonwood trees in front. . . . The roads are excellent, much better and smoother than they are at Concho."

(G to A, May 31, 1878.)

12. Slat cots

Apparently the Colonel owned some of these and probably used them when guests overcrowded the quarters. (G.G. Smithers to G Aug. 13, 1881.)

13. Opera glasses

The Colonel observed the heavens with a pair that belonged to Alice. (G to A, Aug. 16, 1881.)

14. Chairs and tables	Desk
Coffee roaster	Bathtub
Mattress	

The Grierons purchased a number of items from the Davis family when the later left Fort Concho. Among them were a large

chair, willow rocking chair, and two small tables. Two "German Crones [some type of photograph] with the pretty frames for \$15," and a coffee roaster. Later, the Colonel purchased a hair mattress and the Davis' "best set of bed-room furniture and 3 carpets all for \$200." (G to A, Aug. 28 and Sept. 4, 1881.)

In 1880, at Fort Concho, Alice received some new furniture that she described as "handsome and admired by all who have seen it." She put a new spring on the bedstead and expressed the hope that the Colonel would enjoy the new furniture. She wrote, "I think you will be able to see the top of your head easily in the looking glass, and the washstand is of the style you like." The mirror was likely attached to a bureau and the style the Colonel liked was probably a simple one. (A to G, April 27, 1880.)

A sideboard was located in the dining room at Concho. (G to A, Aug. 24, 1876.) Apparently Grierson maintained a desk at his home although a reference to a desk could be to a slight bedroom desk. (G to A, Sept. 17, 1876.)

"I am thinking of buying Maj. Bartlett's bathtub. Getting tired of bathing in a common washtub."
(G to A, Sept. 24, 1876.) He bought it (G to A, Oct. 11, 1876.)

15. House pets

The family had several dogs at Fort Concho -- "Scamp" and "Tam-o-Shanter." (A to G, April 17, 1880.)

In a letter to Harry, who seems to be waiting for the family's arrival at Fort Davis, the Colonel wrote, "We expect to take the great dog and his long pedigree with us to Fort Davis. . . ." (G to Harry, Nov. 10, 1882.) George cared for a pet rabbit. (A to G, June 13, 1880.) Goldfish were at Concho. (A to Robert, May 17, 1877.) Also a blanket was fixed up on the backporch for a cat. (G to A, Sept. 8, 1876.)

16. Compasses

The Colonel owned several compasses of pocket size (A to G, July 15, 1880.)

17. Lounges

No description provided but several were in use. (A to G, Aug. 3, 1880, see item 31. Two lounges are mentioned in one letter. (G to A, Sept. 12, 1879.)

"The lounges and bed springs came today. They are quite nice looking but are damaged some and are now at the carpenter shop being repaired - one will have to be overhauled by the Saddler." (G to A, Sept. 17, 1879.)

18. Jewelry	Satchel
Silverware	Clothing
Furs	
Trunk	

Alice possessed a diamond ring with several stones and the Colonel had a small diamond ring as well. (A to G, Aug. 20, 1880.)

"First we went to Jaccard's and left my diamond ring to be repaired and my six pieces of dilapidated silverware which I took out of my big trunk at the Hotel. We went to a furriers recommended by Leonori & Co., and left my furs to be repaired. . . . I brought them back to Concho without being repaired and they have been utterly worthless lumber since. I bought suits for Harry and George. . . . also a pair of slippers for each. . . . I bought a small trunk which has been one of the delights of my life since into it I dumped Robert's (yours) big satchel bodily. . . ." (A to G, July 3, 1881.)

"[ask] Uncle John to help you [Robert] select a [ginet?] trunk about as large as Charlie's - ordinary size of a gentleman's trunk." (A to Robert, April 22, 1877.) Grierson referred to his carpetbag. (G to A, July 25, 1877.)

19. Musical Compositions

Colonel Grierson was writing songs during the frontier period as well as earlier. (Robert Grierson to his father, Oct. 14, 1880.)

20. Piano (Chickering) Violin Guitar

"I have purchased a very fine Chickering upright Grand Piano - more especially for you [Harry] than any other member of the family and trust that you will take pleasure in learning to play well on that instrument - for which task I am sure you are competent." (G to Harry, Nov. 10, 1882. This letter is very important because it expresses the Colonel's intention of being at the new post of Fort Davis very shortly and bringing the piano with him or at least having it shipped.)

The following passage from the letter above is particularly significant because it demonstrates the determination of the

Colonel and his lady to stock the new household, certainly with more furnishings and almost certainly with new and better things:

" . . . we will have so many trunks, packages and bundles to take with us that it will not be passing strange if some body would get rather crusty over the matter before we reach our destination, Fort Davis, Texas."

"I have learned a few new tunes [on the guitar] and can play a little better than I could when I was at Concho." (Harry to his mother, Aug. 6, 1882, written from Fort Davis.) The Colonel wished he was home with "Violin in hand for a little lively dance tune." (G to A, Aug. 13, 1879.)

21. Paper weights

(G to A, May 14, 1880.)

22. Animal traps

The boys set traps and Harry collected \$2.50 for skins (A to G, July 20, 1880.)

23. Fountain pen

Robert purchased one from Capt. Viele for \$4.70 and called it "a great institution well worth the money. It will write about 70 sheets of foolscap with one filling." (Robert to his mother, July 26, 1880.) Colonel Grierson purchased one in 1880. (G to A, June 20, 1880.)

24. Smoked glasses

These belonged to Robert who wrote that they get a "great deal of use. They rest my eyes when tired. I do not use them though

unless my eyes are watery or hurt." (Robert to his mother,
July 26, 1880.) The Colonel wore glasses. (G to A Aug. 17, 1877.)

25. Photographs and Pictures

"I ordered a dozen assorted cabinet pictures of you
from Clark and two dozen assorted card pictures."
(A to G, Sept. 2, 1879.) The Colonel also purchased
a "picture" which he wrote resembled Edith. (G to A,
April 10, 1879.)

26. Stereoscope

(A to G, April 27, 1879.)

27. Bedclothes	Wash stand
Wash bowl	Wardrobe
Pitcher	What-not
Bureau	

Colonel Grierson wrote about pulling these items out of storage
for use in the house [Concho]. (G to A, July 8 and 19, 1879.)

28. Trunk	Buggies
<u>Harness</u>	

The Colonel purchased a very strong trunk "covered with [?]."
He looked at harness and arranged to purchase a double set and
examined new buggies. (G to A, Aug. 7, 1879.)

29. Lamps

"I purchased 2 student lamps this afternoon, one
double and one single - both nickel plated. The
two cost \$11." (G to A, Aug. 8, 1879.)

30. Crockery

The Colonel was looking to buy crockery in San Antonio but suggested it was better to order from New York at [Bussford's? or Bansford's?].

31. Bedstead	Table
Springs	Wash stand
Chairs	Dinner set
Carpeting	Tea set (Moss Rose)
Ticks	Lounge

Colonel Grierson wrote Alice that he had purchased "one bedstead and springs, 4 chairs, one little table and old wash stand [this is in addition to the wash stand in item 27 above] from Lt. [?] for \$20.00."

"The chair, wash stand, and table, are old and not very good but will answer for the children's room."

"I came very near buying a china Moss Rose Dinner set price \$60 for 55 [pieces] at San Antonio consisting of 124 pieces, but concluded that I would wait and write to see what you thought about it. The set is very nice and would match the china Moss Rose tea set we have. I think I will purchase a \$10 lounge and some other articles of furniture at Fort Worth. The lounge would be something like the one Lt. Davis has." (G to A, Aug. 14, 1879.) The dinner set was bought for \$55. (G to A, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15, 1879.)

"I have ordered one double and one single lounge and one set of ticks . . . Special bed springs . . . \$25. . . . Made inquiry in regard to . . . dining room chairs -- folding and split [?] bottoms or of perforated wood -- with rocking chairs to match. Will probably order some two ply carpet from Phila. or Chicago." (G to A, Aug. 15, 1879.)

Alice "bought another washtub-wash stand, washbowl and seven or eight articles of common crockery for kitchen or field use. The bill was \$4.25." (A to G, Nov. 7, 1879.)

"Edith moved into Charlie's room . . . and has spread out considerably. We had to change bureaus to please her, so I changed the washstand in our room for the old larger one also." (A to G, May 15, 1878.)

32. Rugs

Grierson purchased for Fort Concho "sixty yards of the best and prettiest two ply carpet that could be purchased for \$45. - "two rugs for inside doorways and two for the hall as outside doorways - say \$5." (G to A, Sept. 13, 1879.)

"Thick velvet rug"

"Carpet in the buggy"

"Your big overcoat"

"2 woolen blankets" and "the new rubber one"

(A to G, Dec. 9, 1877.)

Alice disliked the "old fashioned striped carpet." She was tired of it and felt the newer style much "prettier and quieter in color." Neither did she like the "cheaper more gaily colored carpet." (A to G, Sept. 28, 1876.)

The Colonel told Alice to buy stair carpet as she wished and hall carpet as well. He admonished her not to buy the old fashioned striped carpet just because it was cheap (G to A, Oct. [?] 1876.)

"If you want a Brussels carpet I think it is a pity you did not buy Maj. Bartlett's when you had the opportunity - it is of course American Brussels - such as Tom buys is called [Body?] Brussels [sic] and is very expensive." (A to G, Nov. 5, 1876.)

33. Tablecloth and cover "gold pieces"

Tablecloth and cover were obtained for Fort Concho and the letter refers to Alice's using the "Gold pieces." (A to G, [Nov 5?], 1879.)

34. Magnifying glass (\$1.00)
Two scrap albums, white paper
21 ladies pearl handled knives

These were items ordered by Mrs. Grierson. (A to Robert, April 22, 1877.)

35. Objects Mrs. Grierson requested her son Robert to bring to Fort Concho from the family home in Jacksonville:

Mrs. Lincoln's botony
Scrapbook
Edith's album
Small book, pictures of Centennial buildings

Children's puzzles
My cabinet photographs
Picture of Charlie's class
Nut crackers and picks
The can opener
The tooth brushes

6 soup plates
6 large plates
6 sauce plates
The flat vegetable dishes
What knives are there

To buy: 2 or 3 cheap feather dusters; 1 nail brush; 1 doz. good lead pencils, the best botany for high school or colleges.
(A to Robert, April 22, 1877.)

36. Carving knife, steel and fork

"The knife is quite long and heavy" --
quite natural and made by Wm. Jordan.
The fork and steel are very good.
(G to A, Oct. 7, 1876.)

37. Lambrequins

Grierson suggests that Alice purchase a pair of lambrequins and the curtains for the parlor at Concho. "If you do not deem it best to buy them already made or to have them made to order with mouldings - etc; cords and tassels etc., why perhaps it would be well to get some first rate pretty natural [wood?] and all the necessary trimmings etc., and then obtain a good [pattern?]." He gave her the dimensions of the windows and casements (G to A, Oct. 23, 1876; later correspondence indicates lambrequins or cornices were packed and taken to Fort Davis.)

38. Still earlier purchases - 1875

". . . One Bureau. 1 wash stand. One bowl and 1 pitcher. One toilet -- painted tin sett. One students lamp. One oil can and one gal. oil. One--one--oh yes, one of those very necessary articles usually to be found in a closed up bed room -- and also one doz. Hens, calling one rooster a hen." (G to A, May 3, 1875.)

39. Harness box
Walnut bedstead

"The key you let me have would not unlock the harness box. . . . Lieut. Kislingsbury has purchased a walnut bedstead. . . . I think I will take it." Also mentioned were two chests, cushions, a "bundle of chairs" and a "bdl of druggets." (G to A, May 13, 1875.)

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 40. | Chest of papers
Family photographs | Desk and office equipment
Violin |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
-

"I opened my chest which contained my papers . . . and found everything in order. Your picture with Charlie and Robert guarding your flanks -- now graces the mantelpiece. I also have Charlie's picture (taken with his Cadet uniform). . . . I do not find either Edith's Harrie or George's picture in either the trunk or chest . . . the buggy lamps . . . and taken out the whips and will try to straighten them. My inkstand - pen holder, pen rack eraser - paper cutter -- violin in readiness to be tuned up." (G to A, May 14, 1875.)

41. Carriage

The carriage was shipped to Fort Concho (G to A, May 15, 1875;
The impression gained from a reading of the total correspondence
is that the buggy and the carriage were two distinct vehicles
and that both were present at Fort Davis.) The Colonel set
about building a carriage house at Concho. (G to A June 8, 1879.)

42. Walnut set

"I sent \$10 with Capt. Gilbreath to purchase the bed springs and directed him to get me a chair or two to suit the Walnut Sett [sic] I have." (G to A, May 18, 1875.)

43. Snow basket

Two ladies . . . "have made for myself what they called a snow basket and which now graces the center of my room in place of a chandelier. This made of white muslin cut into strips and made to look like lace." (G to A, June 10, 1875.)

44. Chairs

"I found that several of the chairs need fixing and I will have them repaired right away and not have them used until they are made strong and secure. They are all turned nicely and the backs and seats are damask and carpet, all very pretty patterns. They look or will look quite nicely placed about the rooms." (G to A, June 23, 1875.)

45. Watch
Watch chain and fob

The Colonel carried a watch with him regularly. (G to A, June 24, 1875.)

46. Druggets

"You had best . . . bring along the drugget I sent to you from St. Louis -- I think it would be well to purchase another one -- a little larger than that one -- say 12 by 15. . . . Tom . . . might buy one . . . larger -- say 15 by 18, which would entirely cover the parlor here, which is 15 by 18. However a drugget 12 by 15 would answer very well, and would leave a margin of . . . which would be mostly occupied by chairs, tables, etc. With one more such drugget, we could get along very well. This would give us the large one you are to get. . . . for the parlor, and the one you have already for the lower bedroom and the two I have here for the upper bedrooms. We could get some cheap carpeting or matting here for the halls -- if it is best to do so." (G to A, July 15, 1875.)

47. Winchester rifle

". . . and the moonlight shining on the barrels of my new Winchester rifle -- was something they did not anticipate and this probably saved us . . ." (G to A, July 19, 1875.)

48. Fencing

The Colonel planned to erect a fence at Concho similar to the one he had at Fort Sill of "timber rails about 4 inches."

(G to A Aug. 8, 1875.)

49. "Man's Chest"

"Send the man's chest with Lt. [Tiffany?]." "My mess kit going out will not be very elaborate . . . coffee pot, 2 or 3 plates (tin), cup and saucer, knife and fork, butcher knife, etc."
(G to A, 1875.)

50. "Little old shot gun"
Springfield

The Colonel went hunting with Charles who used the "little old shot gun" and he "just cleaned the springfield gun." He ordered shot, powder, measuring, and cleaning equipment. (G to A, Aug. 16, 1875.)

51. Book?

"I intended sending today for St. Nicholas bound in red and gold for a Christmas present for Edith"
(A to Robert, Nov. 30, 1875.)

52. Furniture

In a letter of 1874 a list of furnishings is given which seem to belong to the Griersons but are being used by the Fullers, relatives of the family. Among the expected carpets and chairs are the following:

"Alices' walnut bureau with looking glass attached
Double lounge with straw tick and mattress . . ."
Marble top table
6 parlor chairs and sofa
Short hair seat lounge"

(Louisa Sample to ?, Aug. 1874.)

53. Checker board [table?]

"I would like very much to have you get me the checker stand . . . and . . . the damask for the parlor curtains. . . . I intend to have brackets put on the top of the window frames and have them support a nice walnut cornice or board to fasten the curtains . . . about a foot and a half above the window." (G to A Jan. 6, 1872; this is a very early reference but indicates that window cornices were with the Griersons on the frontier and the checker stand would have moved with them; the walnut cornices were put up -- G to A June 19, 1872.)

54. A clock in the bedroom

The Colonel revealed that he "loves the sound of a ticking clock" which was probably in the bedroom on the mantel. (G to A, Jan. 19, 1872.)

Inventories, Lists, Invoices, etc.

Among the Grierson papers are many documentary lists of various kinds--property inventories, personal lists of purchases, and invoices detailing household goods bought by members of the family. Like the letters, these too fall into three distinct time categories of varying significance -- before, during, and after the Grierson occupancy.

While the furnishing curator's review of these documents is indispensable to the final plan, it was thought unduly expensive either to transcribe them in the narrative or print them as exhibits. The alternative may not only be the most economical but also the best course of action -- that is, to retain the original documents in discreet collections for the direct use of the curator. Therefore, these papers will be filed temporarily with the Division of History and transferred to Fort Davis upon completion of the refurnishing plan.

ILLUSTRATIONS



Illustration No. 1: Col. B. H. Grierson, C. 1883. The original is a framed portrait to be used in the furnished quarters.



Illustration No. 2a: Col. B. H. Grierson at Fort Sill. Poor quality is the result of the enlargement of a section of Illustration 2d.

Illustration 2b. Col. B. H. Grierson at Fort Sill. Enlargement of portion of scene in (Illustration 2c).





Illustration No. 2c: Col. B. H. Grierson at Fort Sill. Harry seated. Original photograph owned by Mrs. Martha C. Frank, Jacksonville, Ill. Sepia toned copies have been made for use in the refurnished quarters.



Illustration No. 2d: Col. B. H. Grierson at Fort Sill.
Stereoscope scene shows family and friends on Medicine Bluff.
Sepia toned copies have been prepared for use in the refurnished
quarters. Original owned by Mrs. Frank.

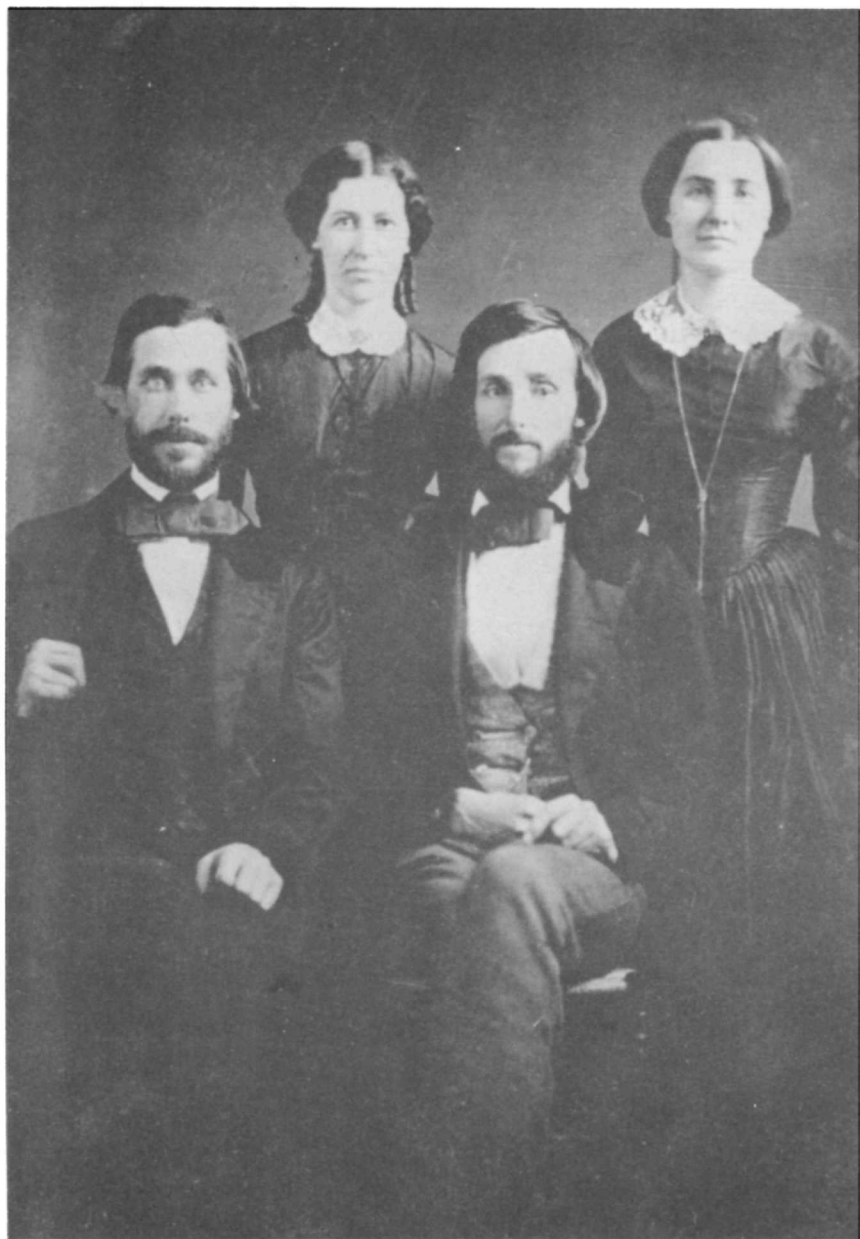


Illustration No. 3: Col. B. H. Grierson (right foreground), his wife, Alice, (right background), his brother, John, and John's wife. Probably taken in the mid-1850's.



Illustration No. 4a: Lt. Charles Grierson, photograph taken sometime between his assignment to the 10th Cavalry, June 13, 1879, and his promotion to 1st Lieutenant, July 6, 1886. Original owned by Mrs. Frank. Sepia tones have been made.



Illustration No. 4b: Lt. Charles Grierson. Data the same as that for Illustration No. 4a.

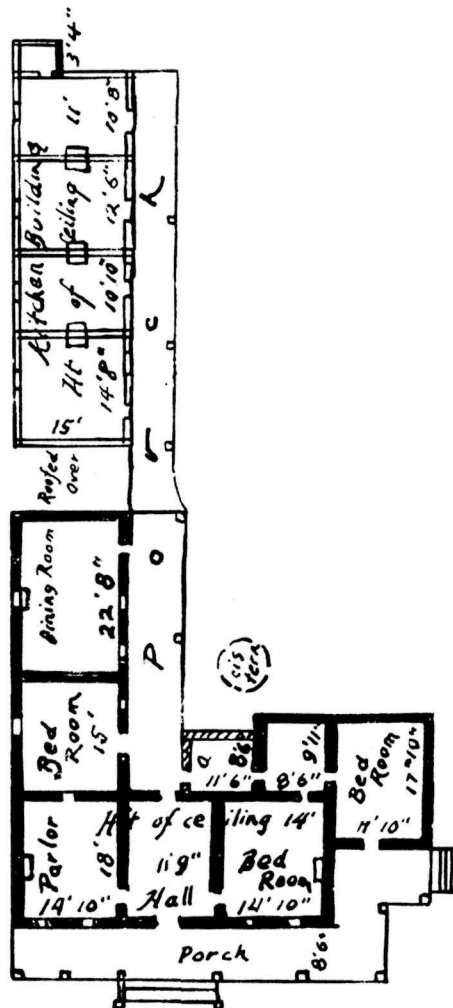


Illustration No. 5: Copy of the historic floor plan of the Commanding Officer's Quarters c.1889.

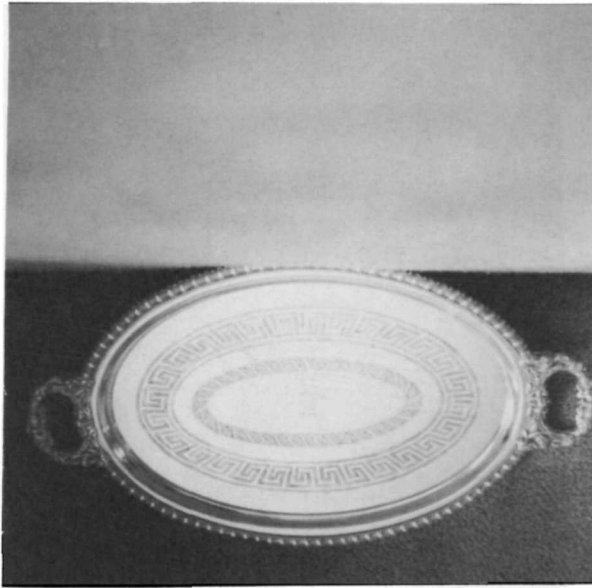


Illustration No. 6: Silver waiter owned by Dr. Walter L. Frank, Jr., Jacksonville, Ill. It is from the Grierson household and was allegedly given to General Grierson in honor of his 1863 raid through Mississippi.

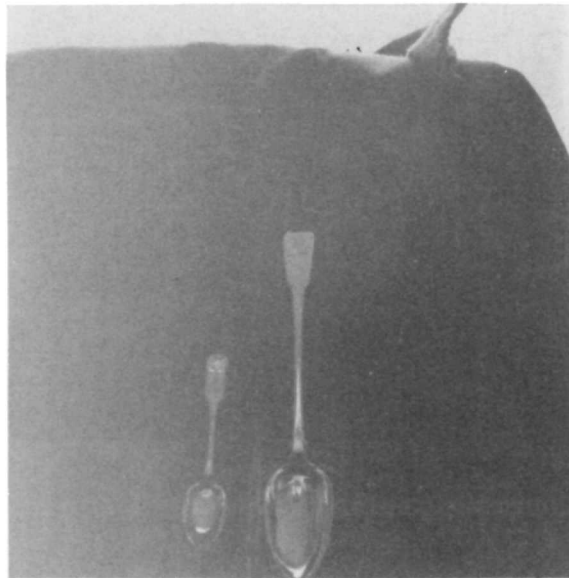


Illustration No. 7: Silver spoons from the Grierson household owned by Dr. Walter L. Frank, Jr., Jacksonville, Ill.

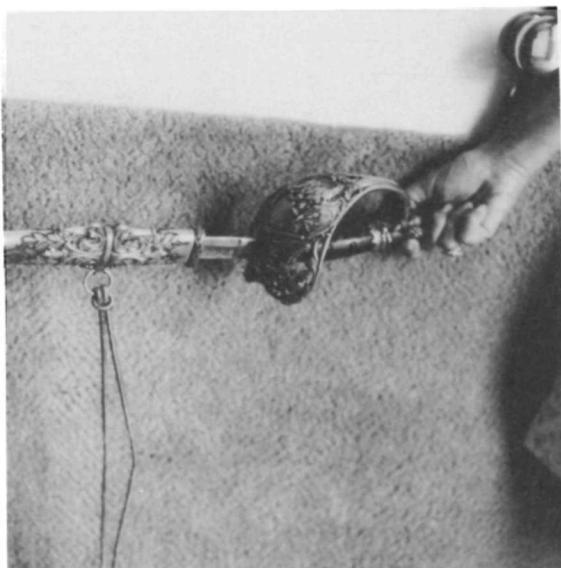
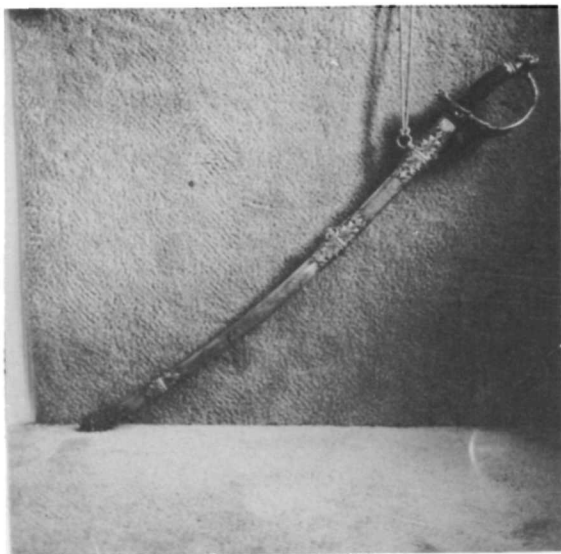


Illustration No. 8: Two views of the presentation sword given to Gen. B. H. Grierson. The sword is owned by Dr. Walter L. Frank, Jr., Jacksonville, Illinois.

