



*Yours truly  
Julian Meade*

## JULIAN MEADE

**J**ULIAN MEADE, one of the most popular lawyers of Danville, Virginia, is by birth a Virginian of the Valley, a not unworthy representative of that race which has been sung by the poet Ticknor as "the knightliest of the knightly." Mr. Meade was born on November 4, 1865, in Augusta County, Virginia. His father, a beloved and respected physician whose memory is still fresh in the city of Danville, was Hodijah Baylies Meade. The maiden name of the mother of Mr. Meade was Mary Opie. Upon both the paternal and maternal sides of his house Mr. Meade can count among his ancestors some of the noblest names in Scotland, England and Virginia; upon both sides of his house Mr. Meade's lineage may be traced in a direct line for hundreds of years and there is royal blood upon both sides of his house.

The founder of the Meade family in America was Andrew Meade, who landed a few years prior to 1700 in New York, married in New York, came to Virginia, settled in Nansemond County, and took an active part in the affairs of the colony. His son David Meade, who settled near the head of navigation on the Nansemond (Virginia) River, was an extremely prominent colonist and enjoyed the honor of serving as the representative of his county in the House of Burgesses. He married Susanna Everard, daughter of Sir Richard Everard, fourth baronet of that name, and Governor of the Colony of North Carolina. Richard Kidder Meade and Everard Meade, the two sons of David, were extremely active and influential leaders in the struggle of the American Colonies for the achievement of independence. During the War of the Revolution, Richard Kidder Meade was a member of General George Washington's own staff. Among the many exploits with which Richard Kidder Meade is accredited in the pages of history, it may here be mentioned that he was one of the twenty-four persons who, on June 24, 1775, daringly removed the arms from Lord Dunmore's house and placed them in the magazine at Williamsburg, Virginia. He was the father of Bishop William Meade, of the (Virginia) Protestant Episcopal Church, author among other books, of that classic genealogical and historical work, "Old Churches, Ministers and Families of Virginia." Everard Meade, brother of Richard Kidder, served during the Revolution on the staff of General Lincoln, and bore the commission and title of General. He was a member of the Virginia Convention

which ratified the United States Constitution. He married first Mary, daughter of John Thornton, of North Carolina, and second Mary, widow of Benjamin Ward and daughter of Joseph Eggleston, of Amelia County, Virginia. Hodijah Meade, a son of General Everard Meade, served as an officer in the War of 1812 with England. He married Jane Rutherford, daughter of Thomas Rutherford, of Richmond, Virginia. His eighth child was Hodijah Baylies Meade, born March 2, 1838, died at Danville, Virginia, in 1875, who married Mary, daughter of Hiram Opie, and was the father of Julian Meade, the subject of our sketch.

It may be remarked in passing that numerous ancestors of Mr. Meade are mentioned in that most interesting, rare and learned book entitled: "The Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal. Being a Complete Table of All the Descendants Now Living of Edward III, King of England." By the Marquis of Ruvigny and Raineval, author of "The Blood Royal of Britain, the Jacobite Peerage, Baronetage and Knightage (the Clarence volume, containing the descendants of George, Duke of Clarence)." Published by T. C. and E. C. Jack at London (34 Henrietta Street, W. C.) and Edinburgh, in 1905. The pedigree, though extremely interesting, is much too long to be quoted in full in our limited space. Suffice it to say that by that pedigree the lineage of this branch of the Meade family is carried back through the ancestry of Sir George Everard (whose daughter, Susanna, it will be remembered, married David Meade, of Nansemond) through Tables LXIII, LVII and II, to George Plantagenet, the famous Duke of Clarence, who married Lady Isabel Nevill, daughter of and heiress to the greatest Earl of Warwick, "the King-Maker." Table I of the same volume traces the line back to King Edward III, of England, the most glorious of the Angevin kings, the victor of Crecy and Poitiers.

The ancestry of the family of Opie, of which Mr. Julian Meade's mother was a member, runs back by perfectly authentic evidence in a direct line to King Robert III, of Scotland.

Certainly it may be truthfully said, not only that few Americans can lay claim to so ancient, so proud, or so distinguished a lineage, but also that Mr. Meade is a representative who will be declared by all who know him to be well worthy in character, personality and integrity of the high line of noble and world-famous men from which he is descended.

The early education of Mr. Meade was received at the private and public schools of Danville. He attended both the preparatory schools and the High School of that city, making an excellent record at both institutions, and graduating honorably from that last-mentioned. Mr. Meade next entered the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, where he took the University Law Course in all its branches.

Immediately upon concluding his course at the University,

he returned to Danville and started upon the practise of his profession. In the active pursuit of that profession he has remained from that time to the present one. There is no man who has given himself with more zealous attention to the affairs of his chosen work. The first duty of a lawyer, according to Mr. Meade, is conscientious devotion to the service of his clients. The subject of our sketch is a man of decided personal popularity, but he has never cared to embark upon the stormy seas of politics, to engage in the struggle for public office, or indeed to make himself conspicuous in any way except by honest devotion to his professional work.

"My whole business life," says Mr. Meade, in answer to a question on this subject, "has been in the continuous practice of law, and has been marked more by steady application than by any special or eventful incidents. My first object has always been to render honest and faithful services to my clients for only compensatory fees." This statement illustrates Mr. Meade's characteristic modesty. It is to others than himself that we must go for an impartial estimate of his career, and it is from others that we must learn that he is one of the most honored, popular, and above all, one of the most implicitly trusted members of the bar, not only in his native town, but wherever the course of his practice has led him throughout his native State.

Perhaps a hint for the ambitious, the earnest-minded, who would hold such a position as that Mr. Meade holds among his fellow-men may be discovered in Mr. Meade's own words, which we quote below:

"In times of peace I have always preferred to avoid leadership or publicity of any kind, and to pursue my private life and profession as unobtrusively as possible, in order to be free to follow a course of Truth, along which might be found contentment, self-respect and happiness. The result of such a life is an inspiration of independence and courage which will enable you to face all actualities and contingencies of human existence boldly, calmly, and without fear. You will not only be sensible of strength in yourself, but will be a support for those around you. Without specially-directed effort and without display, you will thereby best serve your home, society, State, and nation. If you are needed as a leader, you are ready."

These words are representative of the character that has been called "the diamond that scratches every other stone."

On September 4, 1896, at Danville, Mr. Meade married Miss Bessie Edmunds Bouldin, daughter of Mr. Edwin E. Bouldin, of that city. The maiden name of the mother of Mrs. Meade was Miss Lucy Lyne Edmunds.

Mr. and Mrs. Meade have one child, a son, Edwin Baylies Meade. He is at the present time (1914) a student at "The Danville School for Boys."

Mr. Meade is a member of the Epiphany Church at Danville, and was for many years vestryman of that church. He was also for a considerable time Superintendent of its Sunday School.

Politically, Mr. Meade adheres to the tenets of the Democratic Party. He is a member of the Danville Country Club and also of the Tuscarora Club, of the same city. In both clubs he is an officer.

Mr. Meade is a man of extremely cultivated and literary tastes. Historical and biographical works have always afforded him great pleasure, and he has devoted much time to that study of law which is necessary to a truly conscientious worker who would put his best into the field of general practice. That fascinating science, genealogy, has claimed something of his attention at spare moments and more than one person interested in tracing the ancestry of the houses of Meade and Opie has been indebted to him for names and dates necessary to the thorough knowledge of family history.

The home address of Mr. Meade is Danville, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.