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The Wilson Club that has given this dinner is a
 Historical Association for the purpose of collecting
 the information possible of the early history of
 Kentucky and knowing history generally to be unre-
 liable its aim is to keep its records as sacred as possible
 and hence will I prove as I go - all the outline history
 may give of our venerable guest. ~~Whom~~ I say that
 he is the only unbroken link and living witness be-
 tween the first and present inhabitants of Kentucky
 and the only surviving companion of Daniel Boone, I
 refer to his age as a proof and when asserting that he has
 fought through three wars I refer to Col. Kelly of our city
 U. S. Pension Agent who pays him his pension
 for his services in our second war of Independence
 with Great Britain from 1812 to 1815 - while for his
 services in the Mexican army under Gen. Sturbridge
 (afterwards Emperor) I refer to Mexican history and
 as proof that he was a soldier in the Black Hawk war
 I here read you a letter from his mess mate and fellow
 soldier, the Hon. Jefferson Davis. And now ~~I~~ show
 that it is not ^{on account of} ~~told~~ age alone that Wilson Club pays
 his tribute but to the solid worth of a hazardous,
 laborious, and useful life. In order to come to the
 useful ~~details~~ of our guest we must pass over his
 early scrapes and narrow escapis with Indians
 in Kentucky, his capture by them in Canada and
 his troubles with Apaches and Guerrillas on the bor-
 ders of Mexico ^{where a lucky shot saved him and party} and his sea voyage from



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Mazatlan to San Francisco in a ship that
 when passing the Gulf of California was so wrecked
 by a tornado as to be tossed at the mercy of the waves
 for 61 days in a state of starvation. In the fall of
 1822 he and Steven Austin went to the City of Mexico
 and there spent the winter in the same room with the
 renowned Gen. Wilkinson of Wilkinson and Burr
 troubles and they both obtained from the Emperor
 turbid grants of land in Texas. and one of them
 the handsomest towns in Texas is Graham town
 named in honor of our Guest. He next engaged
 in Gold mining with the well known Dr Parrotte
 of Mexico after which he and his son Maj James
 Graham in company with Fremont, McKinsty
 (U. S.) Quarler Master of the great West with
 head quarters at St. Louis, invested largely in
 California buying out the Sutter and other
 large ^{early} claims to lands. Our guest and his son
 had a house framed in Baltimore and shipped
 by sea to San Francisco and there put up. It
 was published in all our papers as the Astor
 House of the Pacific which they some time after
 sold as a city ~~as~~ ^{delays} Council house for \$150,000. The
 house rented the first year it was put up for
 \$100,000 of which the great traveller Bayard Taylor
 speaks and names a single tent that rented for
 \$10,000 while the shade of a tree under which
 the miners were sheltered from the sun together
 with their bags of gold which they placed under
 their heads, rented for a fabulous price. For the



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truth of this statement I refer you to the ~~late~~
~~Barrett~~ Haggin and Lewis of San Francisco and to
Dr. Gwynn who with his family occupied rooms
in the Graham Astor House, who will also tell
you that Maj. James S. Graham through his
influence elected him, (Gwynn) twice to the U.
S. Senate. At that time there were ~~a~~ plenty of
enormous trees in California but there was not
a single saw mill or a plank to be had. This I name
to show how rapidly our country populates and
changes condition. At that time eggs sold at one
dollar each, potatoes one dollar a tin cup of flour
one dollar and of meal one dollar whence already
California is the most abundant country in
the world for lumber and for every luxury that
the earth can produce. Our guests ^{and} son ~~and~~
~~son~~ were the Father of the Telegraph from
San Francisco to St. Louis and his son just before
his death did with his own hands help to
stretch the wire over the first forty miles for
proof of which see report of the Great Union
Telegraph meeting at St. Louis after passing
over many of the ^{operations} of Dr. Graham and his
son in California such as their negotiations
with the ruling power of the Sandwich Islands
that were near turning out a great national
thing and their aid in building a town at the
mouth of the Columbia river in the



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British Possessions. They were appointed
 superintendants of public buildings in Cal.
 and of the penitentiary free of charge for thirty
 years ^{granted them} into which they took Gen. Estill of Estill Co.
 as partner, who took charge of that department.
 For proof that our guest operated largely in the
 rich lead mines of Galena in Jo Davies Co. Illinois
 refer to our merchants who sold his lead. He built
 a whole block of buildings in Chicago for proof of
 which I refer to all old citizens as well as to his
 son-in-law ^{Samuel} Jo. Blackburn ^{of Kentucky} and Rev. Geo. J.
 Cooke with whom he now lives in Louisville.
 Our adventurous friend next penetrated
 the eastern mountains of Ky. and there spent 10
 years of incessant labor in building saw mills
 mining in coal and building up a ^{hotel} ~~town~~ under the
 lofty cliffs of Rock Castle River and establishing
 a watering place. He blasted great rocks and of
 the river and cut out roads in all direc-
 tions until he raised the price of land from ten cents
 to one dollar per acre. He built a bridge over a little
 river called Buck Creek with a very dangerous ford
 where many had been drowned in crossing from
 Somerset to the Cumberland coal banks. In my
 haste I had liked to have neglected to say that he was
 surgeon under Col. Gray on his expedition to the first
 survey of the Texas and Pacific railroad in proof of
 which see Gray's report of said survey where you will
 see his picture swimming the Pecos river a very danger-
 ous stream that rushes down from the Rocky



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mountains through Texas. All the company having crossed in a basket slid up a stretched cable, he, disdaining such passage plunged into the river and was very near drowning. He was for many years a member of the Board of Interman Improvements appointed by the Legislature of Ky. and particularly on turnpikes in which position he became notorious for his liberality in taking stock ~~at~~ ^{and} his incessant labor in getting them through and particularly where they led to Harrodsburg Springs of which he was owner and kept for 32 years during which time he brought several millions of dollars to Ky. and at last sold to the U-S for one hundred thousand ^{dollars} in proof of which I refer to the official records at Washington. All of the intelligent of Louisville know that the Gov. of Ky appointed Dr. Graham a trustee to help build up the Public Library now the Polytechnic Society. He was one of the most active managers in getting the Legislature to remove the tax from said property. He was one of the first graduates east of the mountains ^{as} and a practitioner of medicine he was one of the most active in Ky. Having taken Dr. Henry Miller as a partner he, through the influence of Judge Rowan and others obtained for Professor Miller his position in the Medical University of Louisville for which proof I refer to the Medical faculty. And now what might seem incredible he in the midst of all ^{his} ~~the~~ labors wrote and published two books on psych



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psychology and mental and moral philosophy which gave him such a stand with the thinkers of Europe that he has been made a member of the International Congress of the World for proof of which I have here show you documents post paid sent him in all the languages of Europe the last in Spanish from Madrid. He corresponds with the four great philosophers of London whose letters I here exhibit. This is from Charles Darwin, this from John Lyndall and this from Herbert Spencer who is granted to be the most profound thinker that has ever written upon Physiology and the laws of vitality. Here is also a letter from our great Scientist Draper President of the New York Medical University whose last work The conflict between false religion and science that stunned the whole thinking world. I also show you a kindly letter from the famous Sir Moses Montefiore the great philanthropist of London who is much the oldest man in England and here are the ceremonies of his recent 99th celebration of his birth. Thus I think will be seen that this dinner ^{not} has been bestowed upon old age alone but given as a tribute to a hazardous, laborious, and useful life. And now in proof of the most incredulous statement I have yet made that Doct. Graham though in his second century is still living with all his faculties unimpaired and is now sitting in our midst. I ask all present to open their eyes and witness for themselves.

(over)



For the honor of Ivy and in justification of
the donors of the dinner I have thought it proper
and indeed necessary to give my character, as such
attention given to a man without Character would
be truly ridiculous. You may do what you see
proper with it. I will further say you can at
your own pleasure omit any name I have
given you. I should like that Cassius Goodloe
be a guest, as he was the man who presented my
name for Member of the Scientific Congress.
I think he would be pleased to attend, Dr.
Standiford is also a warm friend of mine and
always sends me free passes over his roads. I
think you have Shaler on your list. I have just
received a letter from Lyman Draper who seems
anxious that my centennial may pass off pleas-
antly. Don't forget him. I am still sick but hope
to step into my second century in better health.

Kindly yrs.

C. C. Graham.

Col. Davenport.

Weywood - Goodloe - Standiford - Shaler