Foreword to the Children

Because I have scant hope, at the time for this publication, to leave my children any considerable of this world's goods, I set my hands to the task of printing this story of their antecedence, that when they read it they may feel they have at least inherited a good name.

The families of this story developed in Scotland for the most part, sojourned in North Ireland and by intermarriage with English settlers and Irish became more than Scotch, but retained the traditions, family habits and religion of that people. The Wier, Britt, Dunbar, Scott, Gregg, Peden, McDowell and McDill families settled, before and just after the Revolution, in Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia, and from these settlements have spread to all America.

The Mulls bring a strong German strain into Tents of The Printer's family, with added English from the Pages, Hathecocks and Davises, on Your Mother's side.

I have gleaned Bible records, deeds, old letters, Nancy Ferguson—Her Daybook (1657), and the following well-known books:

Patrick Walker's History of the Reformation.
Eleanor Hewell's Pedens in America.
Burke's Peerage; Landed Gentry; Commoners.
Andrew Lang's History of Scotland.
Bishop Gregg's Old Cheraws.
Reid's History of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

Tribe, Castle, House and Tent, used in Tracing the Line, are a figurative device to show the de-
degrees of kinship to our tribal parents. When in the story I refer to The Printer the reference is to me and when I refer to Your Mother the reference is to Clara Virginia (Mull) Wier. You Children are in the Tents; your parents are in the Houses; your grandparents are in the Castles and your great-grandparents hold Tribal distinction after the Fourth Generation, under which classification appear Thomas Wier and Mary Withrow, father and mother of "The Ten Tribes of Wier in America."

There is a reasonable presumption that the Wiers settled in Scotland about the time of the Viking and Danish invasions of Britain, as, so late as Robert Bruce's time, the Wiers were water lovers — built their homes on islands in streams, on points near lakes, and called them wierholm. They practiced a form of family unity different from the feudalism of the Lowlanders and the clan system of Highlanders. At one time the wierholms (some rich and some humble homesteads) stretched from Glasgow eastward to the sea in an irregular chain, acting as a sort of buffer between Lowlands and Highlands.

A consistent characteristic of the Wiers has always been that one generation was frugal unto stinginess while the next were spendthrifts. On the other hand, the Pedens are thrifty and stingy from generation to generation. In the olden days all our people were Whiggish rather than Toryish but I have known quite a few who strutted like Aristocrats.

This Story is the truth (but not the whole truth) and I give it to you with love and my blessing.

The Printer.

The Ten Tribes of Wier in America

Chapter One

History and Tradition

The common noun is spelled wier, weir, weir, wear, were, waeren, weeren, warren. It is an obstruction made of brush, logs, rock, turf or earth, across streams. There is a verb value also which means to guard, defend. Those ancient people who built the wiers also guarded and defended them—thus preserving the fish supplies of the uplanders from the depredations of the lowlanders. This is the philosophy of Wier as a proper noun or family name.

Baltredus de Vere was secretary to King Malcolm II, of Scotland, and belonged to Wiers of Lanarkshire and used the Norman-French form of the name. This branch of the family is treated extensively in Burke's "Landed Gentry" and "The British Peerage," while Baltredus' country kin are traced in Burke's "Commoners."

From Scottish Heraldry I have gleaned this bit of interesting history:

**WIER** — Arms and Crests — **WEIR**

*Shield* — Burnished silver.

**Crest** — Demi-Horse issuant, wrought in gold.

**Arms** — A Blue Fess bearing three silver mullets.

**Motto** — "Vero nihil verius" — (Nothing truer than Truth.)

The Wiers of our particular Ten Tribes, by