

# The Sound and the Fury

William Faulkner

1929

- ◆ "An Artist is a creature driven by demons. He don't know why they choose him and he's usually too busy to wonder why. He is completely amoral in that he will rob, borrow, beg, or steal from anybody and everybody to get the work done."

# Personal Bio

*hope, work in faith."*  
J.B. Priestley



*"I decline to accept the end of man."*

**William Faulkner: Nobel Prize Speech**  
**Stockholm, Sweden**  
**December 10, 1950**

*"All his life William Faulkner had avoided speeches, and insisted that he not be taken as a man of letters. 'I'm just a farmer who likes to tell stories,' he once said. Because of his known aversion to making formal pronouncements, there was much interest, when he traveled to Stockholm to receive the prize on*

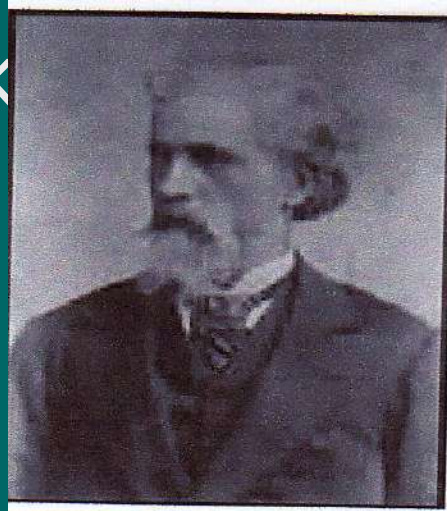
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# Early Life

- ◆ 9/25/1887 to 7/6/62
- ◆ Born in New Albany, Mississippi
- ◆ Lived in NY, New Orleans, Europe, and Virginia
- ◆ Died in home town of Mississippi of a heart attack

# Family History

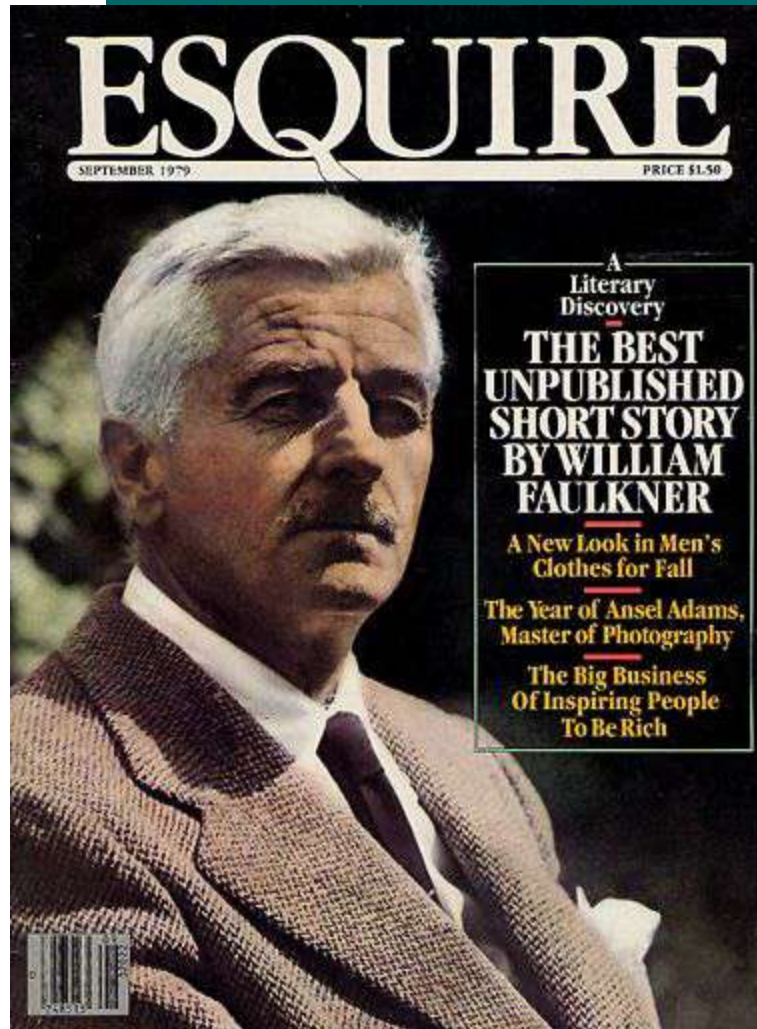
- ◆ William Clark Falkner
- ◆ 1826-1889
- ◆ Colorful life



John Welsey Thompson Falkner – grandfather

- Businessman- carried on great grandfather's businesses of expanding RR , developing lands,
- Became lawyer, banker and Trustee at U of Miss
- 
- Father Murry Cuthbert Falkner
- 
- Went to U of Miss 2 years
- Became RR man, good with business
- Eloped with daughter of local sheriff and had 4 children
- William is the oldest of the 4 sons.
- Father taught boys to love the land, hunting and horses

QuickTime and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.




QuickTime and a  
TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

“A man is the product not only of what happens to him while he lives, but also of events and attitudes which happened or were held long before.”



# 4 kinds of Past


weaves together to create a man

- ◆ Mythical past – handed down by scripture or folk memory
  - ◆ Real past - historical events (read about in books)
  - ◆ Legendary past – events handed down from father to son
  - ◆ Remembered past – individual experiences
- 


# Yoknapatawpha County

- ◆ Land – gullied, red clay area of swamp, timberland, and fertile fields in Northern Mississippi
- ◆ Replica of Lafayette County
- ◆ County has a history, geography, and genealogies of its own
- ◆ People have thought they recognized themselves or their family, ancestors, or friends
- ◆ County is a microcasm of the modern world
- ◆ The history of this county is:
  - Founded by Chickasaw Indians.
  - White men arrived in 1800
  - To main families- McCaslins and Compsons
  - Bring new traditions

# Jefferson

- ◆ Has men in overalls/ shirtsleeves lounging outside courthouse
  - ◆ Countryside has well kept barns, ill kept houses, sharecroppers shacks, negro hovels, dilapidated mansions
  - ◆ Country roads, rickety country hotels, blacksmith shops, cotton gins, back street shops
- 
- A stylized, layered mountain range graphic in shades of teal and blue, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

# People

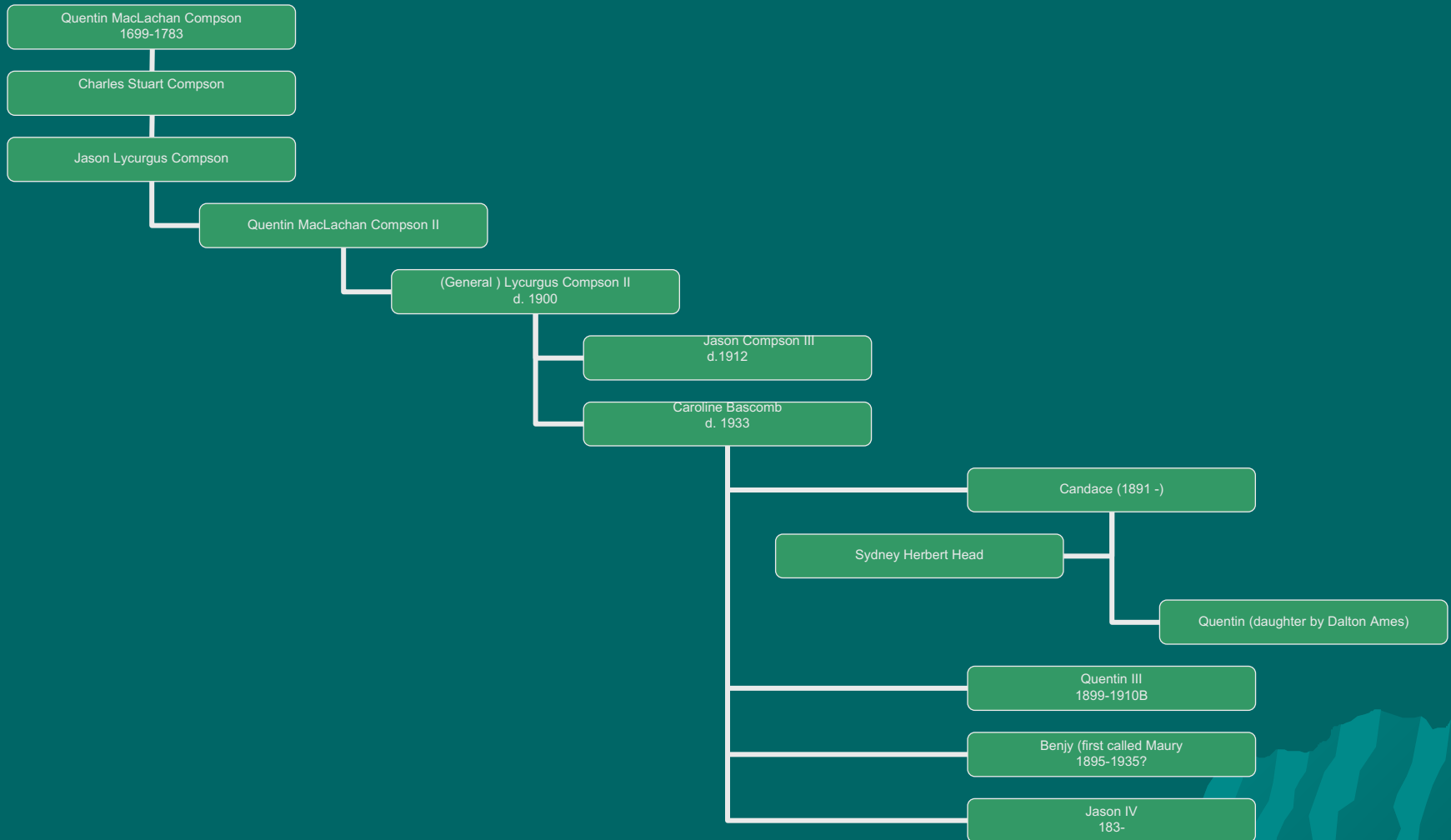
- ◆ Men -Small farmers, lawyers, bootleggers, itinerant salesman, horse traders, politicians, preachers
  - ◆ Poor whites and landed aristocrats (lost in past)
  - ◆ Men do battle against nature and the trickery of men
  - ◆ Men who were once powerful became poor ruined by poor ethics
  - ◆ Men are driven – often they do battle with themselves
  - ◆ Lesser men with little morality, without conscience schemed their way to success.
  - ◆ Those of simple heart will prevail.
  - ◆ Deal with guilt madness greed, lust and fear
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# WOMEN

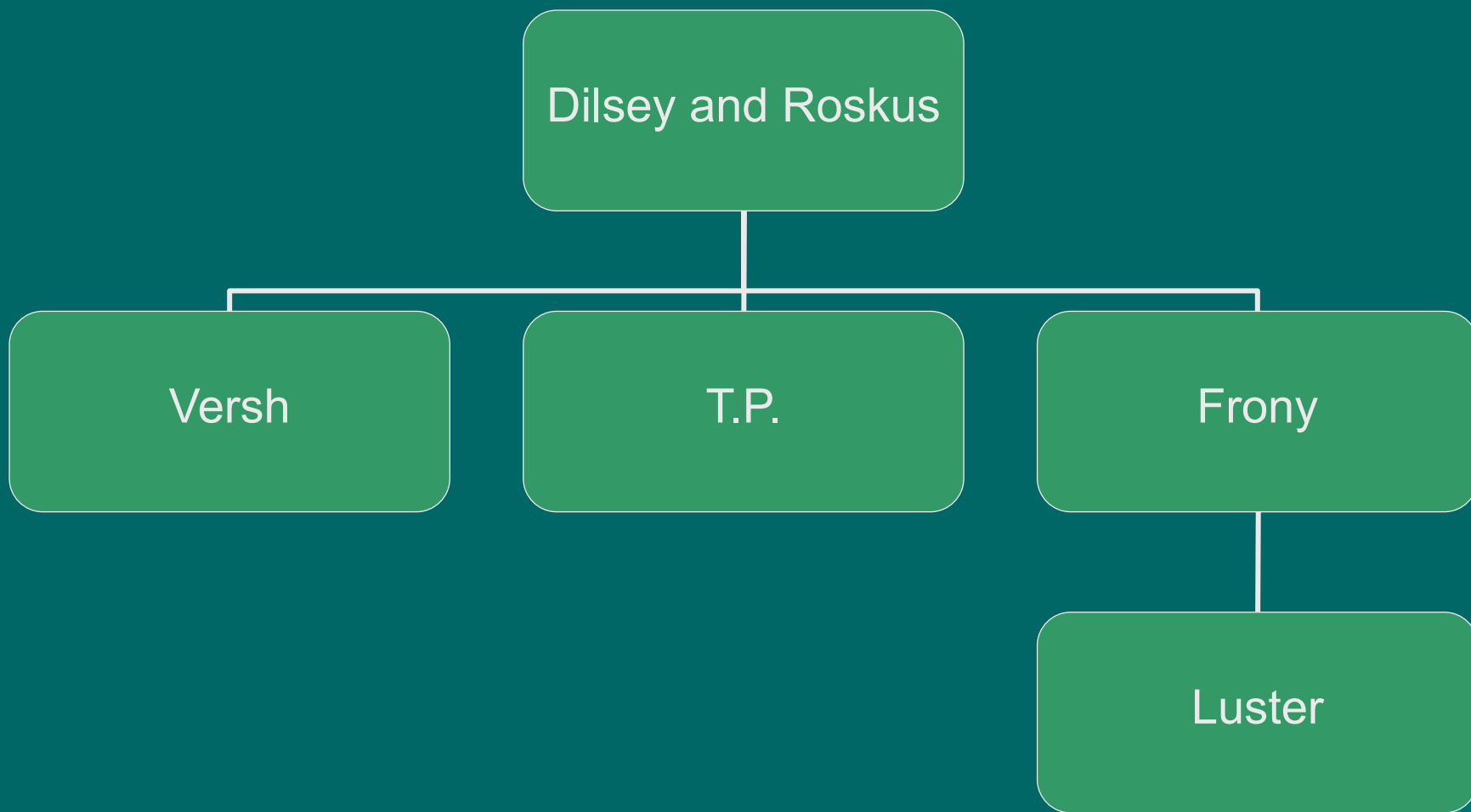
## ◆ 3 kinds

- Lush, fertile, earthy amoral
- Old, reminiscent, and wise
- Dried pretentious but unproductive  
(patterned by tradition to be prudish)

# Sound and Fury Genealogy



# Dilsey's family Tree



# Sound and the Fury (the title)

- ◆ *"Life is but a walking shadow, a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more; it is a tale told by an idiot full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."*
- ◆ *Macbeth- Act V: Scene 5*
- ◆ *How is this significant to the text?*