

Vol. XV

APRIL, 1916

No. 4

# The North Carolina Booklet



## GREAT EVENTS IN NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY



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BY  
THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY  
DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION  
RALEIGH, N. C.

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# The North Carolina Booklet

## Great Events in North Carolina History

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For particulars address

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*The*  
**NORTH CAROLINA BOOKLET**

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*"Carolina! Carolina! Heaven's blessings attend her!  
While we live we will cherish, protect and defend her"*

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Published by  
**THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY**  
**DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION**

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The object of THE BOOKLET is to aid in developing and preserving North Carolina History. The proceeds arising from its publication will be devoted to patriotic purposes. EDITOR.

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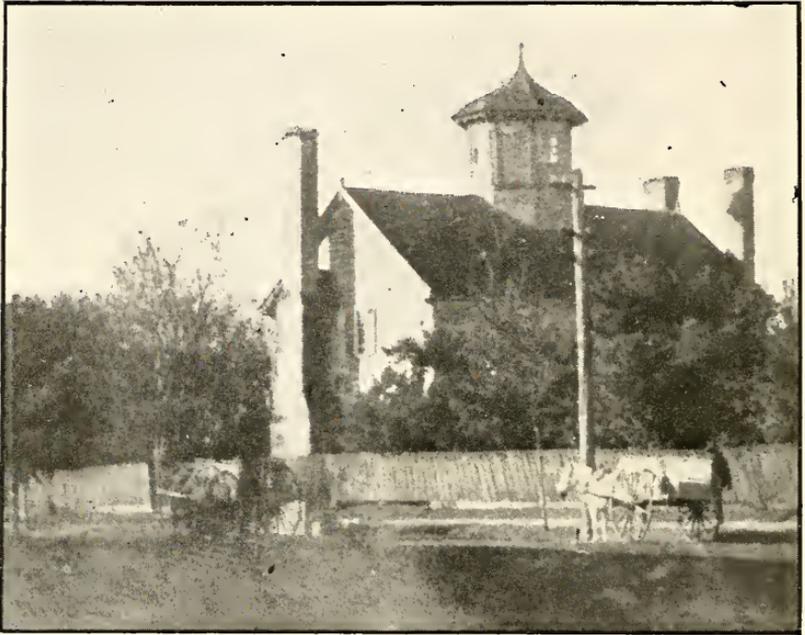
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THE CUPOLA HOUSE

# The North Carolina Booklet

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## The Secession Convention of 1861

By KEMP P. BATTLE, LL.D.  
(The last survivor.)

### INTRODUCTORY.

I have experienced a melancholy interest in preparing this summary of the proceedings of the "Secession Convention" of 1861. A more able and high-toned body of men has never been assembled in the State. They were among the leaders in their counties and "given to good works." Many had won high distinction in the service of the State. All in the decision of the most difficult questions acted, I am persuaded, with a sincere desire to do right. My friend John Gilchrist McCormick, while at our University, with commendable industry and accuracy prepared sketches of the delegates, those first elected and those who filled vacancies, including the principal officers, 139 in number. They are published in a pamphlet, No. 1, of the James Sprunt Historical Monographs, by the University of North Carolina. Of all the number only two survive, as I am informed.\* William S. Battle and myself, "Battle of Edgecombe" and "Battle of Wake."

In the Monograph, Mr. McCormick makes the following interesting statement, "Out of the total enrollment sixty-seven had the advantage in whole or in part, of a college education. If we add sixteen physicians, who had taken a professional, but not a literary course, the total number reaches eighty-three."

The following is a full and, I feel sure, an accurate statement of the work of this important body, as gathered from the Journal and my memory.

KEMP P. BATTLE.

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\*Since writing the above William S. Battle died, leaving myself the only survivor.

## CALL OF THE CONVENTION AND ORGANIZATION.

Between 1850 and 1860 it became evident that a minority of the people of North Carolina intended to break the constitutional compact of 1787. They believed that to secure this it was necessary to secede from the Union and set up a separate government. They were known as "Original Secessionists." The majority of our people, while they viewed with indignation the resolve of the majority of the Northern States to deprive citizens of the slave-holding States of the right to carry their property into the common territory and to disregard the constitutional right to recover runaway slaves, they were of the opinion that there was no legal right to secede from the Union, and secondly, that the rights of the South could be secured without resort to measures which would lead to war. War, they contended, would cause not only the usual horrible results but would end in the destruction of slave property. They were called Union men. They argued, however, that there was no constitutional right to coerce by force of arms a seceding State back into the Union, and that if such attempt should be made they would fight against it.

The Secessionists, Governor Ellis being a chief leader, as early as December, 1860, agitated to induce the General Assembly to call a Convention of the people with full powers, so as to be ready for all contingencies. The Unionists were afraid of giving to a small body of 120 men the power over such tremendous issues, especially as the Secessionists were exceedingly active, and they therefore provided for a vote of the people on the question of Convention or no Convention. The Act was passed January 1, 1861, and on the 28th of February the people by a majority of less than one thousand refused to call the Convention and the election of delegates was void.

On the 15th of April, President Lincoln called for troops to enforce United States laws in the South. Governor Ellis

refused and summoned the General Assembly together. On the 1st day of May that body called an unrestricted Convention to be elected on the 13th, to meet on the 20th, a notable date in the history of the State. The members of the Assembly were under great excitement. Battle, of Wake, in a speech, as member of the Convention, showed that they conferred on Governor Ellis the power to appoint 565 officers, including a Major and three Brigadier-Generals, 14 Colonels, 13 Lieutenant-Colonels, 34 Majors, 133 Captains, etc., etc., their salaries amounting to \$769,344 per annum.

When the roll was called on May 20, 1861, 117 answered to their names, only three being necessarily absent, but afterwards allowed to vote as if present. There were at first practically three parties. 1. The Original Secessionists. 2. Those who had been Union men, but temporarily, so angry against the war party of the North that they for many days acted with the Secessionists, and 3. "Old Union Men," who, although they had resolved to aid in resisting coercion to the fullest extent, could not admit that secession was a remedy authorized by the Constitution. They too believed that President Davis and Governor Ellis in appointment of officers had largely discriminated against those of their way of thinking. The Act of Assembly for raising ten regiments gave the appointment of all the regimental officers to the Governor.

The first act of the Convention was, of course, the election of a President. The Original Secessionist nominated was Weldon N. Edwards, whose middle name was in honor of his radically States-rights relative Nathaniel Macon. The old Union man nominated was William A. Graham. Edwards was elected 65 to 48, nearly all of the minority belonging to the third class above mentioned. The first and second classes were of the majority. The expression, "let us show a united front with the Confederate States" was commonly heard. A few were sanguine enough to hope that by such a united front the Northern people would do justice in order

to avoid war. And some wrongheaded men said: "Show we will fight and the Northerners will back down; they are cowards." But these were not delegates.

#### PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE OF SECESSION.

Immediately after the election of President and Secretary, Col. W. S. Steele, Mr. Badger, on behalf of those who did not believe in the legal right of secession, offered an elaborate Ordinance of Revolution, entitled, "An Ordinance declaring the Separation of North Carolina from the United States of America." The hot words of the preamble show how the Republican party at the North had alienated and angered the people of the South. The whole paper bristles with vituperation and hate. Omitting much verbiage I quote enough of its language to give an idea of its spirit. The Republican party, it was alleged, is hostile to the institutions of the Southern States. North Carolina "remained in the Union hoping to obtain security for our rights and to keep all the States in a fraternal union. While indulging this hope Lincoln called upon the States, under false pretense of executing the laws, to march an army into the seceded States, with the view of their subjection, under military authority without legal or constitutional right." "It is the fixed purpose of the government and people of the non-slaveholding States to wage a cruel war against the seceded States, to destroy the finest portion of this continent, and to reduce its inhabitants to abject slavery." Lincoln "in violation of the Constitution declared our ports under blockade, seeking to cut off our trade. His course has been marked by a succession of false and treacherous acts and declarations, proving that in his dealings with Southern States and Southern men he is void of faith and honor." "In all his wicked and diabolical purposes, in his unconstitutional, illegal and oppressive acts, and in his position of usurper and military dictator, he is supported by the great body of people of the North."

The foregoing abusive epithets, all the more notable because Mr. Badger was of a conservative temperament generally, were the preamble to the Ordinance, not of Secession, but of Revolution, the right that the Colonies exercised when they broke off from Great Britain. It was declared that "the connection between North Carolina and the United States was dissolved. This State is free, sovereign and independent, owing no obedience or other duty to the United States, and has full power to do all things which independent States may do. Appealing to the Supreme Governor of the world for the justice of our cause we will to the uttermost of our power uphold this declaration."

Mr. Badger demanded a vote on this ordinance, as soon as the President and Secretary, Walter L. Steele, were elected. This was objected to because the Sergeant-at-Arms and other officers had not been chosen, but he contended that no rules of order had been adopted, and therefore the Convention was ready for business as soon as there was a head to direct and a hand to record. This view prevailed but by general consent the vote was not taken until after Leonidas C. Edwards became Assistant Clerk; James Page, Principal Doorkeeper, William R. Lovell, John C. Moore and Drury King, Assistants.

Mr. Burton Craige offered as a substitute for the Badger Ordinance, one approved by those who had faith in the constitutional right of secession, said to have been drawn by Judah P. Benjamin for Louisiana. As it is short I copy it in full.

AN ORDINANCE DISSOLVING THE UNION BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THE OTHER STATES UNITED WITH HER UNDER THE COMPACT OF GOVERNMENT, ENTITLED "THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES."

"WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED, DO DECLARE AND ORDAIN, ETC.

"That the ordinance adopted by North Carolina in the Convention of 1789, whereby the Constitution of the United

States was ratified and adopted; and also all acts and parts of acts of the General Assembly, ratifying and adopting amendments to the said Constitution, are hereby repealed, rescinded and abrogated."

*"We do further declare and ordain, that the Union now subsisting between the State of North Carolina and the other States, under the title of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved, and the State of North Carolina is in full possession and exercise of all those rights of sovereignty which belong and appertain to a free and independent State."*

It will be noticed that here are no abusive epithets. The ordinance is a clear, bold, statesmanlike exercise of sovereign power.

The proceedings were interrupted by the introduction of the Delegate from South Carolina, Hon. Franklin J. Moses, commissioned to lay before the Convention the Ordinance of Secession of that State. It differs from the Craige ordinance in omitting the words declaring the possession of right of sovereignty belonging to independent States.

Mr. Moses made a strong speech from the South Carolina point of view. He was a man of high standing, but was the father of F. J. Moses, who gained a bad reputation as Governor of South Carolina in Reconstruction days.

After the address of Mr. Moses, ex-Chief Justice Ruffin moved that both ordinances be referred to a committee to report an Ordinance of Separation. This failed by five votes, 44 to 49.

The next motion was to strike out the Badger Ordinance, which passed by a large majority, 72 to 40.

Judge Ruffin then offered as a substitute, an ordinance, penned by himself, ordaining that the Union be dissolved, and that the State is free and independent, but not repealing the ordinance of 1789 and acts of Assembly amending the Constitution. This failed by 49 to 66.

The old Union men, and those who thought secession as a constitutional right a legal heresy, having thus recorded their

views in their votes on the Badger "Ordinance of Revolution" and the Ruffin amendment, not claiming the right to repeal the measures of adhesion to the Federal Constitution, deeming it patriotic to present an undivided front, waived their scruples and voted for the Craige Ordinance, passing it by a majority of 115 to 0.

Mr. Badger yielded with reluctance, left the hall and withheld his vote until next day. The result was celebrated by the firing of cannon in Capitol Square. Many expressed their rejoicing in jubilant terms, but there were not lacking faces gloomy from the consciousness of the momentous task on which we had entered.

Mr. Whitford moved the adoption of a State Flag. A blue field with a white V thereon, and a star, encircling which shall be the words, *surgit astrum*, May 20, 1775. Referred to a committee of seven.

Mr. Thomas P. Meares then offered a resolution that the Convention at once should adopt the Provisional Constitutional of the Confederate States, which had been agreed to February 8, 1861, by South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Mr. Graham, in behalf of those who thought best not to enter into a new government without proper safe-guards, moved to adjourn. Lost, 39 to 64. Mr. R. P. Dick moved to refer it to a vote of the people, but the Convention refused to concur, 34 to 72.

It was then passed unanimously.

Hon. Abram W. Venable then offered an ordinance providing that "North Carolina assents to and ratifies the Constitution of the Confederate States of America, adopted at Montgomery, Alabama, March 11, 1861, by Conventions of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Texas, and agrees to enter into a Federal association of States on the terms proposed." This by consent was laid over for further consideration. A night session was held on the 21st, when, in presence of many spectators, all the members, by counties signed the Secession Ordinance, elegantly enrolled on parchment.

## JOINING THE CONFEDERACY.

The ordinance to adopt the permanent Constitution of the Confederate States was passed on the 6th of June, 1861. Ex-Governor Graham's motion to adopt a proviso that due representation should be given to this State in Presidential and Congressional elections was negatived by a two-thirds vote, the majority thinking that it would imply distrust of the fairness of the new government. Mr. Dick's motion to submit the question of adoption to a vote of the people failed by nearly the same vote. An amendment offered by Hon. W. S. Ashe claiming the right to secede if the powers conferred should be used to the injury of North Carolina was lost by 88 to 24. After the ordinance was unanimously passed the Ashe declaration was brought up again. A motion to lay it on the table failed by a tie vote. It was not called up again, probably because Mr. Ashe was appointed by President Davis to take charge of the railroad system and resigned his seat.

## LEGISLATION.

It is impossible for want of space to give a full history of the general legislation. A mere outline is only practicable. Rules of Order, based on those of 1835, but with material additions were adopted. Mr. Badger was the leader in Parliamentary law. Next to him was Mr. Graham. President Edwards was also an expert. He was overruled only twice during his term. First, where a day's notice of a motion to adjourn had been given, a motion to rescind it did not require an additional day's notice. He ruled to the contrary. Second. A motion to rescind a resolution of adjournment did not require three readings, as the President decided.

The following rulings, the reason for which were clearly given by Mr. Badger, are useful. While the motion to reconsider must by the adopted rules only be made by one of those who passed the measure, if the yeas and nays have not been called, any member may move a reconsideration. That is,

if the record does not show the names of those voting, for and against, all are presumed to vote aye. We must go by the journal.

The presiding officer, if he thinks a motion unobjectionable, and no one demands a second, may presume it, and put the motion without it.

On the 27th of June, 1861, the State troops, etc., were transferred to the Confederate Government. Also forts, lighthouses, mint in Charlotte and arsenal in Fayetteville. Fifty dollars bounty was offered for volunteers for three years of the war. Various other provisions were made which I will not enumerate.

A State Flag was adopted. A red field with a white star in the centre. Above the star May 20, 1775; below it May 20, 1861. Two bars of equal width, the upper blue, the lower white.

May 21, 1861, Governor Ellis reported 10,717 volunteers. The ten regiments enlisted for the war had not been entirely raised. He estimated 15,350 troops needed for defence to cost \$6,625,000 per annum. It was certain that the Confederate Government will accept and pay twelve regiments of infantry, one of artillery and one of cavalry, leaving \$3,120,968 to be paid by this State.

Of the officers of the United States, 35 were appointed from North Carolina; 14 tendered their services to this State.

Major T. H. Holmes, Captain R. C. Gatlin, R. G. Campbell, Robert Ransom, First Lieutenants: George B. Anderson, W. D. Pender, R. H. Riddick. Second Lieutenants: Joseph R. Jones, Sol Williams, Alexander McRae, Lawrence S. Baker, Gabriel H. Hill, S. D. Ramseur, R. C. Hill. Besides these, Captain John C. Winder, Major James A. Bradford and Lieutenant W. G. Robison had already tendered their services.

Of the cadets of the Military Academy A. S. Moore, J. E. Craige, G. S. Lovejoy, O. C. Petway, P. H. Faison, G. W. Clayton, R. B. Cowan, J. W. Lee; of those in the Naval

Academy W. F. Moore, T. S. Galloway, —— Fish; of the officers of the United States Navy, Commanders John Manning and W. T. Muse; Lieutenants J. T. Cook, W. E. Boudinot, J. N. Maffit, P. U. Murphy, Paymaster J. Johnson, Professor A. W. Lawrence, Lieutenant of Marines, W. W. Kirkland and Master —— Kerr; Third Lieutenant in Revenue Service M. W. Brown.

Steamers Albemarle and Ellis were purchased and Kenabec chartered for the State.

Early in June, 1861, ex-Judge Ruffin and ex-Governor Graham were appointed a committee to arrange for the transfer of the forces of the State. There was a difference of opinion as to the right of appointing officers but the claim of the President prevailed, The ordinance of transfer was ratified June 27, 1861.

Provision was made for calling for volunteers to meet the requisition of the Confederate authorities but these were all superseded by the conscriptions acts of Congress.

On motion of an "old Union" man, Hamilton C. Jones, on December 6, 1861, the Convention passed a resolution of confidence in the Confederate cause, readiness to submit to all sacrifices and denouncing the cruelty and barbarism of our adversaries.

The Friends (Quakers) were allowed exemption from military service on payment of \$100 each.

Three million, two hundred thousand dollars was appropriated to meet the demands of the Treasury for two years. Three million of treasury notes were authorized, one-half \$5s, one-fourth \$10s and one-fourth \$20s. In 1863, \$2,000,000 more were authorized, \$8,000,000 \$5s; \$7,000,000 \$10s; \$500,000 in \$20s, and in addition \$10,000 in five cents and \$10,000 in ten cents. The manufacture of spirituous liquors was prohibited after February 21, 1862, not as a temperance measure, but to save grain for food.

A Board of Claims against the State was created. Messrs. B. F. Moore, S. F. Phillips and Patrick Henry Winston, of Bertie, all Old Union men, were chosen.

The manufacture of salt out of sea water was undertaken. Dr. John M. Worth, was elected Superintendent. State Geologist Dr. Emmons reported that the French consume fourteen pounds to each individual per annum, the English twenty-two, and North Carolina comes between the two. Employees were exempt from military duty. The products were distributed freely by the County Justices. Any one re-selling State salt was guilty of a misdemeanor. Power of impressment of free negroes was given to the Superintendent, also the power of condemning the necessary land.

The ordinance proposed by ex-Governor Graham as a substitute, offering one dollar a bushel for 1,000 pounds, failed to pass.

An ordinance carefully drawn by Mr. Badger endeavored to put a stop to speculation in the necessaries of life, i. e., forestalling and regrating. It was passed with the exception of the clause dispensing with grand juries. If it had any effect it was not known.

Railroads from Washington, North Carolina, to Tarboro; from Florence, South Carolina, to Fayetteville, and Greensboro to Danville, were chartered, and amendment to the railroad from Fayetteville to the coal fields of Chatham, and from Raleigh to the same, were granted. The Sapona Iron Company was allowed to mine iron in the same valley.

The Convention accepted from Colonel Wharton J. Green a marble bust of John C. Calhoun.

Resolutions discountenancing party spirit, aimed at the supposed partiality of the Confederate and State administrations in favor of original secessionists, were offered but failed. Mr. Gilmer moved a resolution to appoint Colonels G. E. B. Singletary and Z. B. Vance Brigadier-Generals, but did not press to a vote.

Much excitement was caused by the report that the Confederate Government contemplated seizing the arms of the people. Also that Isaiah Respass and other citizens, not in the military service, had been removed to Richmond. Mr. Badger offered strong resolutions against both movements. There was hot discussion. Effort was made to cut off this discussion by a motion to adjourn, but it failed by a two-thirds vote. After divers excited speeches made, adjournment was agreed to, and satisfactory action being taken by the authorities, the subjects were dropped.

Authority was given to cities and towns to prohibit the sale of spirituous liquors within the corporate limits or within a mile thereof, probably the first prohibition law in our State history.

Notwithstanding the vigorous opposition of Colonel William H. Thomas, the agent of the Cherokees, the Act allowing Indians to testify for or against whites, was repealed by a two-thirds vote.

The Commissioners of Wilmington were authorized to borrow money for fortifying the city and obstructing the river, with the consent of the Confederate officer in command. The same privilege was extended to New Berne and Washington and to any other town which might ask for it.

Authority over the acts of the General Assembly was claimed and exercised.

On motion of W. W. Holden the Convention gave the first official recognition of the "patriotic ardor of the ladies of the State, which they have exhibited in behalf of the country in the prosecution of the war."

#### MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

Under the Provisional Constitution of the Confederate States the Convention elected the following delegates. For the State at large, William W. Avery and George Davis. For the Districts, William N. H. Smith, Colonel Thomas

Ruffin, of Wayne; Thomas S. D. McDowell, Abram Venable, John M. Morehead, Richard C. Puryear, Burton Craige and Allen T. Davidson.

The old Union men had before this election become dissatisfied with the attitude of the original secessionists and their recruits. The old proverb, "politics make strange bed-fellows" was never more clearly proved to be true than when a caucus was held in Holden's parlor, with ex-Governor Graham presiding. Those of us who attended recalled in memory the many hard things *The Standard* had said of the public acts of the distinguished Chairman. The caucus nominated Bedford Brown and H. W. Miller for the State at large, and W. N. H. Smith, George Green, W. F. Leak, Archibald Arrington, J. M. Morehead, R. C. Puryear, W. R. Myers, R. T. Davidson, for the Districts. The original Secessionists nominated W. W. Avery and George Davis for the State at large and R. H. Smith, Thomas Ruffin, of Wayne; T. S. D. McDowell, A. Venable, J. W. Cunningham, R. L. Patterson, B. Craige and N. W. Woodfin. There were enough independent members to elect men from both tickets. Those chosen were Messrs. W. W. Avery and George Davis, for the State at large, and W. N. H. Smith, Thomas Ruffin, of Wayne; T. S. D. McDowell, Abram Venable, J. M. Morehead, R. C. Puryear, Burton Craige and A. T. Davidson, for the Districts.

#### SECRET SESSIONS.

Secret sessions were sometimes held, mainly concerning the danger to the tide-water sections. There was fear of a stampede of the slaves to the Federal Army, as soon as there was an invasion of our coasts. Complaints were vigorous of the withdrawal of troops from threatened points. Some counselled the removal of slaves from the coastal countries, Mr. William Pettigrew stated that when he called up his slaves for transportation to the up-country they fled to the swamps. He afterwards persuaded them to change their

abode and, after the close of the war, was utterly unable to assist their return. Much mournful speech was uttered in the secret sessions, but little effectual was done; nothing could be done. The chief speakers were Messrs. Speed, F. B. Satherthwaite, K. Rayner, R. H. Smith, Spruill, Pettigrew and Woodfin. These were good speakers and being intensely in earnest, were eloquent in depicting the dangers threatening their counties. But the duty of protection had been transferred to the Confederate Government. The members were sympathetic but waited in vain for practical proposals of relief.

#### DEFEATED ORDINANCES.

The following proposed ordinances failed to meet favor. Some of them show the excited spirit among many members.

1. Allowing free negroes to enslave themselves.
2. \*Debtors in prison bounds to go free during the war.
3. †Selling cotton yarns for over \$1.50 for five pounds a misdemeanor.
4. Creating a Minister of War.
5. To repeal the Stay Law, passed by the General Assembly. The vote was close, 54 to 52.
6. To deprive the courts of all civil jurisdiction during the war. Also to give the Superior Court judges the power of calling criminal courts at their pleasure for the trial of felonies.
7. A self denying ordinance, prohibiting a member of the Convention from holding any office.

A committee, of which Judge Asa Biggs was Chairman, reported an ordinance which reminds us of the stern temper of the days of Cromwell. This was to make seditious language criminal, and requiring a stringent test vote to be

\*Debtors could be released unless fraudulently concealing their property.

†This was introduced by Major W. A. Smith, who whispered to me, "That is for Johnston County. You will never hear of the d——d thing any more."

taken of all males, except volunteers in the army, under a penalty of banishment or disfranchisement. Judge Biggs was leader for the affirmative and ex-Governor Graham for the negative.

Each of the following offenses was declared a high misdemeanor, punishable with fine and imprisonment, with obligation to give good security for three years.

1. Attempting to convey intelligence to the enemy.
2. Publishing and deliberately speaking or writing against our public defense.
3. Maliciously and advisedly endeavoring to excite the people to resist the Government of this State or of the Confederate States.
4. Or persuading them to return to a dependence on the United States.
5. Knowingly spreading false and dispiriting news.
6. Maliciously and advisedly terrifying and discouraging the people for enlisting into the service of the Confederate States.
7. Stirring up or exciting tumults, disorders, or insurrections in this State.
8. Disposing the people to favor the enemy.
9. Opposing or endeavoring to prevent the measures carrying on in support of the freedom and independence of the Confederate States.

Two or more credible, or "other sufficient evidence," were sufficient to convict.

One witness could charge a person with the commission of any of the foregoing offenses, and a Judge or Justice of the Peace must bind him to appear at Court, or for want of security commit him to prison.

It shows deep bitterness of feeling against those supposed to be favorable to the United States. When we note these proposed laws, capable of tyrannical suppression of free speech, and even of free thought, as evil as the laws of the most despotic and cruel governments, received the votes of

twenty-nine good men, who in quiet times were lovers of liberty and as much opposed to despotism as the forty-five who voted to indefinitely postpone the whole subject, we realize the hot temper of the times.

The next proposition to rid the State of opponents of the Confederate Government was to require an oath, called the Test-oath, of all free males, except volunteers in the army, idiots, lunatics and prisoners of war, first of allegiance to the State, secondly, that they will defend the independence of the Confederate States; third, renounce allegiance to the United States; fourth, to support the Confederate States and this State. If they should refuse, the Court may order him to leave the State within thirty days. If allowed to remain they would be disqualified to hold office. If they should not leave the State when ordered, they were to be sent at their own expense. If they should return they would be guilty of treason, punishable with death.

The speech of ex-Governor Graham against this proposal was very able and was published in pamphlet form. The best on the other side was perhaps that of Mr. Biggs. Only twenty-two voted aye against forty-five noes. Mr. Rayner then moved an ordinance to define and punish seditious language, which failed by forty-five to twenty-nine.

A proposal to confiscate the property of those abandoning the State, or being residents of another State should not return, was also willed.

The proposal to have an Executive Council with dictatorial powers over persons and property was also voted down.

Among the propositions of an interesting nature which met with no favor, was one to have no amendment to the Constitution except by a Convention, so that there shall be no submission of a legislative amendment to the people.

The requirement of *viva voce* voting instead of by ballots, received only the vote of the mover, Mr. Howard.

Mr. Bridgers' motion that no law should be passed except by a majority of all the members of each house, received thirty-seven votes, but there were forty-four against it.

Mr. Woodfin's motion to make Federal population, instead of taxation, the basis of the Senate obtained nineteen votes—sixty-two against it.

The ordinance to elect judges by the people was voted down.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES.

Some amendments to the Constitution were adopted from time to time.

1. The definition and punishment of treason, following the Federal Constitution.

2. Taxation of slaves according to value.

3. Poll tax on free males, between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five, and that to be the same as the tax on \$300 value of land.

4. Jews were allowed to hold office. The prohibition was confined to those denying the divine authority of both the Old and New Testament.

5. One-fifth of members of Conventions and General Assemblies required to call for a vote by yeas and nays. Two members could do this under prior constitutions.

6. Six months' residence in counties required of voters for Senators.

Besides there were others to end with the war. First. To allow soldiers of the State to vote wherever they might be. Secondly. Also refugees to vote in any county. Thirdly. Requirement of election for Governor on first Thursday in August, 1863, was of course only for one occasion, the first election of Governor Vance.

#### ABORTIVE EFFORTS TO REVISE THE CONSTITUTION.

A considerable number of the delegates endeavored to secure important amendments to the Constitution. To that end they procured the appointment of strong committees to report the changes that should be made. The final adjournment of the Convention prevented the consideration of their

reports, but they are interesting as showing the views of able lawyers and men of business. The Committee on the Declaration of Rights, Mr. W. J. Ellison, Chairman, and Badger, Holmes, Ruffin, of Alamance, and Dick, made a few recommendations, "on account of the reverence and veneration due to it." They opposed any alterations in regard to the free negroes. They added what many supposed was already a part of it, "nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb."

Also, "Nor shall right or justice be sold, denied or delayed to any one, nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

They recommended the striking out of the section relating to the boundary of the State, as it was inaccurate; moreover such description is out of place in a declaration of principles.

On the Legislative Department were Messrs Graham, Chairman; Rayner, Smith, of Halifax; Strong, Meares, Brown, Foster, of Randolph; Caldwell, of Rowan, McDowell, of Bladen; Woodfin.

Among their recommendations were the following:

The General Assembly may disfranchise for bribery.

No high officer of a corporation, in which the State is a stockholder to be member of the General Assembly. Nor shall anyone not entitled to vote be a member.

A majority of all members of each house necessary to appropriate as much as \$500.

The public debt limited to \$20,000,000, unless in war or insurrection.

Jews may hold office (already adopted).

Treason against the State defined.

The Committee on the Executive Department consisted of Messrs. Howard, Chairman; Dillard (Richard), Green, Leak, of Richmond; Arrington, Gilmer, Headen, Miller, Galloway, Greenlee. They reported that the Governor should own at least \$5,000, of which \$2,000, should be realty. The term of office to be three years, not to be eligible to a second

consecutive term. To have veto power over revenue and appropriation bills, two-thirds required to pass over veto. The office of Lieutenant-Governor to be created.

The Committee on the Judicial Department were Messrs. Ruffin, of Alamance; Biggs, Battle, of Edgecombe; Sanders, Strange, Bridgers, Kittrell, Johnston, Mitchell, McDowell, of Madison. They recommended that the Supreme Court be a Chief Justice and three Associate Justices; two terms at Raleigh; the General Assembly may provide for more than two terms of the Superior Courts in a county, and if so they may increase the terms of Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, their name to be changed to County Courts. Three Justices of the Peace for one thousand inhabitants, to be elected by the County Courts, to own in the county a freehold assessed for taxes for \$100. Justices to be removed for conviction of infamous crime, corruption or misdemeanor in office. The General Assembly may establish Courts in cities and towns with civil jurisdiction.

The Committee on Taxation, Revenue and Public Debt were Messrs. Ruffin, of Alamance; Smith, of Halifax; Pettigrew, Thomas, of Jackson; Bridgers, Biggs, Mitchell, McDowell, of Madison. They recommended taxation of slaves, the same as land, the limitation of the public debt to be \$20,000,000, except in war, etc. No public debt without taxation to pay interest and create a sinking fund.

Finding that the Convention would not consider a general revision of the Constitution, ex-Governor Graham proposed a Special Convention for the purpose, but he obtained only twenty-four votes.

#### ORATORY AND BEHAVIOR.

According to my recollection, ex-Governor Graham's speech on the Test-oath was the ablest delivered in the Convention. A short attack by Mr. Saterthwaite against Soldiers' Suffrage, and one by Mr. C. R. Thomas, on his resolution discountenancing Party Spirit had the clearest ring of elo-

quence. Other strong and frequent speakers were Messrs. G. E. Badger, D. A. Barnes, Asa Biggs, R. P. Dick, D. D. Ferebee, George Green, George Howard, William Lander, J. W. Osborne, W. S. Pettigrew, K. Rayner, Ruffin, of Alamance; D. Schenck, F. B. Satherthwaite, R. H. Smith, R. K. Speed, S. B. Spruill, E. A. Thompson, E. J. Warren, N. W. Woodfin.

The following spoke occasionally, some of them ably, all interestingly and to the point. Messrs. K. P. Battle, B. Brown, B. Craige, W. J. Ellison, J. A. Gilmer, R. Gorrell, T. R. Hargrove, J. H. Headen, H. C. Jones, W. F. Leak, W. J. Long, T. S. D. McDowell, R. S. Donnell, J. Manning, G. Mebane, W. J. F. Miller, W. M. Shipp, W. A. Smith, R. Strange, G. V. Strong, C. R. Thomas, J. W. Tracy, A. W. Venable, J. D. Whitford.

It must be admitted that too much time was consumed in debates. Quite a number of members were so much experienced in public business, with such reputation in the State that, without working for any personal object, they felt bound to express their views on almost every question coming up. This very great supply of oratorical power led to lengthened debates, the speakers feeling bound to maintain their reputations.

The discussions were generally in good temper. One clash however created amusement to all but the participants. Two venerable men, ex-Judge Ruffin and ex-Senator Bedford Brown, had a short interchange of angry sarcasm. They had adjoining seats and when their passage at arms was over, they sat back to back, irritation being apparent on their countenances. Their friends during the recess made explanations and friendship was renewed.

At another time a prominent delegate used to an eminent elderly member loud and hectoring language, in fact, irritated by interruption, ordered him to take his seat. The latter indignantly, but without threatening a blow, strode towards his adversary. There was a general shudder at the

possibility of two distinguished men disgracefully coming to blows. Judge W. M. Shipp quickly, but firmly, stepped between the two and gave the needed moment for reflection. I feel sure that the offended delegate did not intend a blow but only resentment against the improper language which had been addressed to him. The offender afterwards tendered an earnest apology, explaining that a sick headache caused intense nervousness.

The usual temper of the members was of a serious nature. The members were impressed with the magnitude of the task the State had assumed, and the uncertainties of the future. On one occasion, however, there was an outburst of merriment. A delegate, a preacher, made a speech with the mournfulness of utterance and excited gesticulation usual at old-fashioned camp meetings. Another delegate, an amiable and able man, who had recently more than usual interviews with old John Barleycorn, at the close of the war sermon, stepped forward and shouted, "Mr. Speaker: I move that the front benches be set apart for the mourners!" There was a universal roar, and for several minutes the responsibilities of legislation were forgotten.

There were two occasions when the general excitement caused a cessation of business for several minutes. This first was General D. H. Hill's dispatch to the Governor announcing the victory of Big Bethel, with the loss of one killed and six wounded on the Confederate side, while the enemy stated their loss at 150. Men who went wild over this skirmish, as if its success would bring the Union authorities to terms, learned to be comparatively cool over the great victories of Manasses and Chancellorsville. The report was made to Governor Ellis because the troops had not been transferred to the Confederacy. General Hill piously adds: "Our Heavenly Father has wonderfully interposed to shield our heads in the day of battle." Governor Ellis in transmitting the victory asked and obtained the privilege of thanking the gallant commander and the brave officers and men. On

motion of Colonel Spruill a committee was appointed to illuminate the capitol and grounds in honor of the "brilliant victory," which project was not carried out. Long afterwards the patriotic ardor of the ladies caused a bronze statue of the slain private to be erected in the Capitol Square. Countless orators have paid tribute to North Carolina as "First at Bethel and last at Appomattox."

The second occasion when the members lost their heads was when Roanoke Island was captured. There was a mild panic for a few minutes. Some advocated an immediate adjournment. Some looked as if there was imminent danger of Burnside's cavalry making a dash on Raleigh. But the cooler-headed members soon brought the rattleheads to respectable order. Colonel R. R. Bridgers was the first to show coolness.

It is surprising to note the ignorance of even intelligent Southerners of the power and resources of the United States. The Convention requested of Governor Ellis information as to the alleged "landing of foreign troops on the coast of North Carolina." On June 10, 1861, he answered that the rumor was untrue and then added, "If our batteries are properly served, a fact of which I could entertain no doubt, the power of the United States Navy is not sufficient to effect an entrance into anyone of the harbors of the State."

"In the following December the Convention expressed their undiminished confidence in the officers and soldiers, who, after a long and severe bombardment, were compelled to surrender to an overwhelming force, the inadequate defenses of Hatteras." The Convention thought that the batteries were well served, but the defences were not adequate. The truth is that the batteries were well constructed under the supervision of Colonel Elwood Morris, a very able civil engineer, but could not resist the tremendous artillery of the great fleets of the United States.

## SESSIONS AND DISSOLUTION.

The large majority of the more distinguished members had the public confidence. The legislation was conservative and wise. And yet evidently the people had come to the conclusion that they ought to give way to the General Assembly, the regular constitutional law-making body. The ultra-secessionists favored dissolution, partly because they had lost control of the Convention, and partly because they thought that the majority were somewhat disposed to criticise too severely the action of the Confederate authorities. The argument that the majority of the people desired dissolution was fatal to longer continuance.

There were four sessions of the Convention. First, May 20 to June 28, 1861; second, November 18, 1861 to December 13, 1861; third, January 20 to February 26, 1862; fourth, April 21 to May 13, 1862. There was no adjournment *sine die* on this latter date, but a resolution was passed allowing President Edwards, and in event of his death, Messrs. Graham, Howard, Badger, Smith, of Halifax; and Rayner, or a majority of them, to call the Convention together at any time prior to November 1, 1862, and that, if not so called prior to that date, it should stand adjourned *sine die*. It was known that the President was opposed to another meeting, and that, if he should not die, May 13, 1862, was practically the day of final adjournment, but legally the Convention did not expire until the first day of November, 1862.

ROLL OF DELEGATES ELECTED TO THE CONVENTION OF 1861  
AND OF THOSE WHO FILLED VACANCIES.

Alamance—Thomas Ruffin, Giles Mebane.

Alexander—Azariah C. Stewart (died), Alexander M. Bogle.

Ashe and Alleghany—Joel E. Foster.

Anson—Albert Myers, M. D., James A. Leak.

Beaufort—William J. Ellison (died), Edward J. Warren, Richard Spaight Donnell.

Bertie—Samuel B. Spruill, James Bond.

Bladen—Thomas S. D. McDowell (resigned), Neill Kelly.

Brunswick—Thomas D. Meares.

Buncombe—Nicholas W. Woodfin.

Burke—John C. McDowell.

Cabarrus—Caleb Phifer.

Caldwell—Edmund W. Jones.

Camden—Dennis D. Ferebee.

Carteret—Charles R. Thomas.

Caswell—Bedford Brown, John A. Graves (resigned), James E. Williamson.

Catawba—Rev. Polycarp C. Henkel, D. D., George Sitzer.

Chatham—John Manning, Leonidas J. Merritt (resigned), James H. Headen.

Chowan—Richard Dillard, M. D.

Cherokee—Allen T. Davidson (resigned), James H. Bryson.

Cleveland—William J. T. Miller, M. D., James W. Tracy, M. D.

Columbus—Richard Wooten.

Craven—George Green, John D. Whitford.

Cumberland—David McNeill, Warren Winslow (resigned), Malcolm J. McDuffie, Archibald S. McNeill.

Currituck—Henry M. Shaw, M. D. (resigned), John B. Jones (resigned), Daniel McD. Lindsay.

Davidson—Benton C. Douthitt, Benjamin A. Kittrell.

Davie—Robert Sprouse.

Duplin—William J. Houston (resigned), James Dickson, James T. Rhodes.

Edgecombe—William S. Battle, George Howard.

Forsyth—Rufus L. Patterson (resigned), Thomas J. Wilson, Darius J. Starbuck.

Gaston—Sidney X. Johnston, M. D.

Franklin—Archibald D. Williams.

Gates—Andrew J. Walton.

Granville—Tazewell L. Hargrove (resigned), Stephen S. Royster, Abram W. Venable (resigned), Thomas B. Lyon.

Greene—William A. Darden.

Guilford—Robert P. Dick, John A. Gilmer, Ralph Gorrell.

Halifax—Richard H. Smith, Charles J. Gee, M. D. (resigned), Littleberry W. Batchelor, M. D.

Harnett—Archibald S. McNeill.

Haywood—Rev. William Hicks.

Henderson—William M. Shipp.

Hertford—Kenneth Rayner.

Hyde—Edward L. Mann.

Iredell—Andrew Mitchell, Thomas A. Allison.

Jackson—William H. Thomas.

Johnston—Claudius B. Sanders, William A. Smith.

Jones—William Foy.

Lenoir—John C. Washington.

Lincoln—William Lander (resigned), David Schenck.

Macon—Rev. Conrad D. Smith.

Madison—Joseph A. McDowell, M. D.

Martin—Asa Biggs (resigned), Doctor Warren Bagley.

Mecklenburg—William Johnston (resigned), James W. Osborne, Pinckney C. Caldwell.

Montgomery—Samuel H. Christian.

Moore—Hector Turner, M. D.

Nash—Archibald H. Arrington (resigned), Lucien N. B. Battle.

New Hanover—William S. Ashe (resigned), Robert H. Cowan (resigned), Robert Strange, John L. Holmes.

Northampton—David A. Barnes, John M. Moody.

Onslow—Edward W. Ward, M. D. (resigned), Andrew J. Murrill.

Orange—William A. Graham, John Berry.

Pasquotank—Rufus K. Speed.

Perquimans—Joseph S. Cannon.

Person—John W. Cunningham.

Pitt—Bryan Grimes (resigned), Fenner B. Satherthwaite, Peyton A. Atkinson.

- Randolph—William J. Long, Alfred G. Foster.  
 Richmond—Walter F. Leak.  
 Robeson—John P. Fuller, John C. Sutherland.  
 Rockingham—David S. Reid, Edward T. Brodnax.  
 Rowan—Burton Craige (resigned), Hamilton C. Jones,  
 Richard A. Caldwell.  
 Rutherford—Jason H. Carson (died), Micajah Durham,  
 George W. Michal.  
 Sampson—Thomas Bunting, Robert A. Moseley.  
 Stanley—Eben Hearne.  
 Stokes—John Hill (died), Alexander H. Joyce.  
 Surry—Thomas V. Hamlin.  
 Tyrrell—Eli Spruill.  
 Union—Hugh M. Houston.  
 Wake—George E. Badger, Kemp P. Battle, William W.  
 Holden.  
 Warren—Weldon N. Edwards, Frances A. Thornton.  
 Washington—William S. Pettigrew.  
 Watauga—James W. Councill.  
 Wayne—George V. Strong, Ervin A. Thompson.  
 Wilkes—James Galloway, Peter Eller.  
 Yadkin—Robert F. Armfield (resigned).  
 Yancey—Milton P. Penland.

ROLL OF OFFICERS OF THE CONVENTION OF 1861.

- Weldon N. Edwards—President.  
 Principal Secretary—Walter L. Steele, Rockingham  
 County.  
 Assistant Secretary—Leonidas C. Edwards, Granville  
 County.  
 Principal Doorkeeper—James Page, Randolph County.  
 Assistant Doorkeeper—Filliam R. Lovill, Surry County.  
 Second Assistant Doorkeeper—John C. Moore, Wake  
 County.  
 Third Assistant—Drury King.  
 Printer to the Convention—John W. Syme, Wake County.

# The Cupola House and Its Associations

By MACK CHAPPELL.

In the town of Edenton, North Carolina, there are three distinct types of old buildings that were completed about the same time. They are the Court House, St. Paul's Church, and the Cupola House. These are monuments of wealth, taste and architecture. They are still efficient, symmetrical and pleasing in their surroundings. The subject of this essay is the last named house; and first something should be said of its history.

On September 17, 1744, Francis Corbin(*a*), builder of the Cupola House was appointed land agent by John, Earl Granville, the only one of the Lords Proprietors who retained his interests in North Carolina. A few days later, Corbin left England for the Carolinas on a man-of-war; and arriving in Chowan County, took charge of the Earl's affairs—having as an associate agent, Edward Moseley, appointed in 1743(*b*).

Corbin was very unjust in his dealings, and thus became unpopular. Twice he was seized by a mob(*c*), but always escaped with a light loss, in most instances his deputy agents being the ones who suffered. Once he endeavored to bring suit against the rioters(*d*), but being warned by Thomas Child, Granville's attorney, that he would be the loser, he withdrew his suit. Notwithstanding his harshness he had great power. Edward Moseley, Colonel James Innes, Benjamin Wheatley and Joshua Bodley were each in their turn

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(a) Francis Corbin appointed land agent Sept. 17, 1744 (N. C. Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. III, No. 2, page 239).

(b) Edward Moseley, agent in 1743, associated with Corbin (same reference).

(c) Corbin and his fellow agents oppressors, assailed by mob (Vol. VIII, Pref. notes, page IX, Colonial Records).

(d) Corbin endeavored to punish rioters (Col. Records, Vol. V, page LIX).

fellow agents of Corbin(e); yet, while each was dismissed, he remained in office. A probable aid to his power was his influence in the church. At a vestry meeting in Edenton, the vestry and church wardens appointed Corbin to agree with some one to have the church finished(f). Therefore he must have been a member of the Episcopal Church and a man of business ability.

Francis Corbin built the Cupola House in 1758, and as is indicated by the interior of the house was probably several years in completing it. Most statements err concerning Corbin's marriage and death, but it is a fact that in 1761 he married Colonel James Innes' widow, Jean(g). No one knows the date of his death. That he was living on August 2, 1766(h) is certain, for on that date he was recommended for the Governor's Council. That he was dead by December 11, 1767(i), we know, for on that day his administrators were allowed £80 for a negro that had been executed. Francis Corbin left no will, but made a deed on October 28, 1761, "subjecting the Cupola House on Lot No. 1, to himself and his heirs until the solemnization of the then intended marriage between himself and Jean Innes, after this to Jean Innes for her lifetime, and then to his heirs." Jean Corbin died in 1775(j), and then the property descended to Edmund Corbin(k), brother of Francis Corbin.

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(e) Fellow agents of Corbin:

Edward Moseley (Col. Records, Vol. IV, page 924);

Col. James Innes (Col. Records, Vol. V, page 778);

Benj. Wheatley (Col. Records, Vol. V, page 779);

Joshua Bodley (Col. Records, Vol. V, page 779);

Thomas Child (Col. Records, Vol. VI, page 293);

(f) Vestry St. Paul's Church appointed Corbin to have church finished. (N. C. Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 1, No. 4, October, 1900, pages 605 and 606.)

(g) Corbin married Jean Innes (Col. Records, Vol. V, page XIX).

(h) Corbin living August 2, 1766 (Col. Records, Vol. VII, page 247).

(i) Corbin dead by December 11, 1767 (Col. Records, Vol. XXII, page 850).

(j) Jean Corbin died 1775 (Abstract of N. C. Wills by Grimes, page 82).

(k) Descent of Cupola House to Edmund Corbin (Record or Deeds Chowan County, Vol. R, page 41).

Dr. Samuel Dickinson(*l*), the next owner of the house, was born in Connecticut in 1743, and died in 1802. He graduated in some foreign school, probably Edinburg, as that was then the medical center of the world. He located at Edenton.

On February 7, 1777, he bought the Cupola House(*m*) from Edmund Corbin for £400. Dr. Dickinson's office was on the corner of the same lot. He had associated with him a young doctor, Beasley by name. Dr. Dickinson was a man of wealth and had a wide practice. He met his death from exposure in crossing the Albermarle Sound to see some member of the Armistead family.

Dr. Dickinson willed the property to his daughter, Penelope Barker Bond(*n*) in 1802.

In 1858, Mrs. Penelope Barker Bond willed the Cupola House to her daughters, Elizabeth, Sarah, Anne and Margaret Bond(*o*).

Miss Margaret Bond, who survived her three sisters, left no will, but her niece, Miss Tillie Bond now possesses the property by right of inheritance.

The Cupola House is situated about the middle of Lot No. 1, of West Broad Street; and, like several other houses of that period, faces the water on the south. It is said that there was a heavy wall around the lot, and it is known that there was a very high hedge of Euonymus, probably inside the wall. If there was a wall the gate must have been on the southern side, for there are indications of an old walk to the house from that part of the lot. On each side of this path there are old fashioned flowers; Deutzia, Weigela, White Spirea, Toad-flax or Butter-and-Eggs, and some Jon-

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(1) Life of Dr. Dickinson (N. C. Booklet, or "Great Events in History of N. C.," Vol. XI, July, 1911, No. 1, page 24).

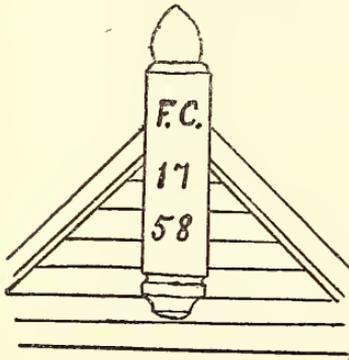
(m) Dr. Dickinson bought Cupola House for 400£ (Record Deeds Chowan County, Vol. R, page 41).

(n) Property descended to Penelope Barker Bond (Record of Wills, Book "B," page 277).

(o) Descent of property to Miss Margaret Bond and sisters (Record of Wills, Book "D," page 43).

quils, said to have been set out by Dr. Dickinson's wife over one hundred and thirty-five years ago.

Strictly speaking, the house has three stories for there is a large attic. In front, the second story projects twelve inches over the first story, and the projection is decorated with brackets. This was not done with a view to more space, but to break the perpendicular surface and thus ornament the house. There are two large chimneys on the western side and one on the eastern. The house has thirty large windows, showing that light and ventilation were much desired, even in Colonial days. All the windows of the first story have solid shutters and fasten with a large-headed bolt and slotted stick. The windows of the second and third stories are lower boarded and fasten with hooks. The house was painted white with green shutters and trimmings. The roof,



which is nearly square pitched and has ornaments in the gables, has been covered several times, and is said to have been originally covered with shingles cut round at the ends. There is a gable at the front, and on the gable ornament there are in raised letters: F. C.—1758.

There is no doubt that the whole house, with few exceptions, is built from native white and yellow pine (*p*), especially since that wood was most abundant here and most used (*q*). It is certain that the timber was not cut in England and imported, for we had water-power sawmills in America as early as 1634(*r*). Indeed we had

(*p*) White and yellow pine in N. C. (Lawson's History of N. C., page 56).

(*q*) Pine most used at that time (same reference).

(*r*) Sawmills in America before in England (Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. XIV).

sawmills here capable of cutting two thousand feet per day before there were any in England. The bricks were also native made, for Lawson in his history, mentions that bricks and tiles were made here in 1714, and that in building with bricks, the people used lime made from oyster shells(s). The nails are hand wrought and were probably made here. Even the glass was probably made in America, for there were glass works in Virginia in 1608, and in Pennsylvania in 1683(t).

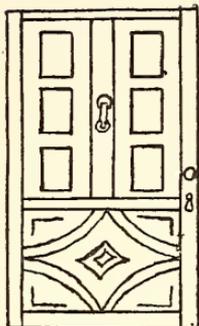
The house has eight by ten inch heart sills, resting on brick piers eight inches thick and twenty inches high; three by ten inch joists in first story and two by ten inch joists in second story—all joists being spaced twenty-four inches apart. The principal rafters are six by eight inches, and the ordinary ones are two by four and three by four inches. The plates and purlins are six by eight inches, and the corner posts are six by six inches. The window and door studs are three by four inches and all other studs are three by four and two by four inches. All the flooring of the house is six inches wide and one and one-half inches thick. The house is weather-boarded with six-inch bevel edged siding. The corner boards, window and door casings are of heart pine, one and one-eighth inches thick and five inches wide. The entire outside of the house was designed in the Colonial style.

The only external addition to the house is the front. It is a little portico or porch about seven feet wide and ten feet long. The approach to the porch is three stone steps. The porch has four posts or columns. The two front posts are seven and one-half inches square at the bottom, and taper to five inches square at the top. The rear posts are set in the weather-boarding and are eight inches square. The vaulted ceiling of the porch is plastered.

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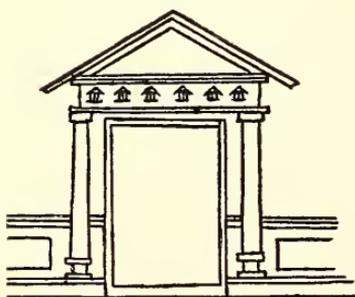
(s) Brick made in N. C. in 1714; lime from oyster shells (Lawson's History, page 46). Carpenters, joiners and brick masons in N. C. in 1714 (Lawson's History, page 98).

(t) Glass works in America in 1608-'83 (Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. VIII).



The front door is very heavy, being one and three-fourths inches thick, three and one-half feet wide and seven feet high. It has six panels with parquetry in curious shapes beneath. The heavy English hinges are nailed with wrought iron spikes. The door is fastened by a large iron lock—over ten inches long—with a peculiarly shaped key. All the fixings of the lock are brass. There is a heavy brass knocker, one of the several of the same pattern now in the community. The threshold is twelve inches wide, and there is a stationary transom of four panes above the door frame.

The lower hall is nine feet high and has six exits, but only two of the exits—the back and front doors—to the outside. The wash-boarding is six inches wide. Above this there is wainscot of one row of horizontal panels upon the stiles of which quirk molding is placed, surmounted by a five-inch chair-rail or stool cap. The remainder of the wall is plastered to the ceiling. The crown molding is large and has bands of ogee and cymatium molding. The back door and

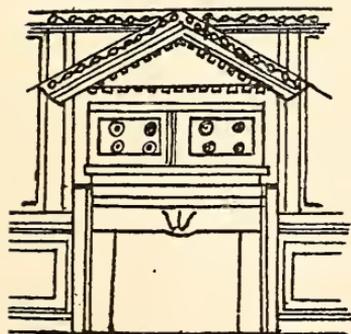


the doors to the two back rooms are plain with six panels and set in molded frames. The doors to the two front rooms are alike and have frontals placed over and about the frames. These frontals have a sub-base upon the wash-boarding, then two needed columns with molded base. The columns have molded capitals upon which

rests an entablature with a plain architrave and a frieze ornamented with small carved colonnades. The cornice is molded and the pediment above it has a gable made of the

crown molding. The ceiling is plastered and in it are two hand-carved rosettes to receive hanging lamps. Only one of the lamps is now there. It has an oval globe, brass band and chains, and is raised and lowered by means of two pulleys.

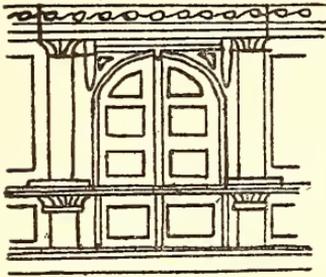
The dining-room, or the first room to the right as we enter the hall is the most handsomely finished part of the house. The door frontal on the inside has two quilled and reeded columns with their bases upon the molded wash-board. Upon the capitals of the columns there is an entablature with plain molded architrave, frieze and cornice. Above the cornice is an arch, which has corbels and square billet molding beneath it, made of heavy band and foliated molding. The door has a brass lock and hanging handles. Around the wall there is a row of horizontal panels upon which is molding, and a five-inch chair-rail. This supports the upper row of panels, set vertically. The panels are certainly of soft wood and are probably of white pine, with stiles of yellow pine. The crown molding is very heavy, about eight by eight inches, and is nearly similar to the molding of the arch above the



door. The room has four windows with egg-and-anchor molding set in broken lines, to give a Roman appearance. On one of the panes of a window in this room there is scratched the name "Samuel Dickenson." The fire-place is of hand-carved Italian marble, and it is said that the hearth was of the same material, but has been destroyed. The mantel-piece, not

in harmony with the door frontal, is surmounted by a pediment without columns. The lower part of this pediment has two panels with roses carved upon them. The cornice has brackets below it and the low gable is made of the crown molding. The mantle-piece, as well as the door frontal, is

made of white pine, for no hard wood could have been carved so regularly. Both were too high for the room, and the ceiling was cut away for their tops. On each side of the back of the room there is a small door opening into a separate butler's pantry. Between the doors there is a china closet built in the wall. The lower compartment is the same height as the chair-rail, and has two doors. On each side of this compartment stands a pedestal or sub-base. The chair-rail supports two quilled and reeded columns with Corinthian capitals, holding up a projection of the crown molding. Be-



neath this molding and between the columns there is an arch with carved keystone and spandrels. Under the arch is the main part of the china closet, which has two paneled doors and three oddly carved shelves.

In the china closet there is almost a complete set of gilt and pink flowered china for twelve

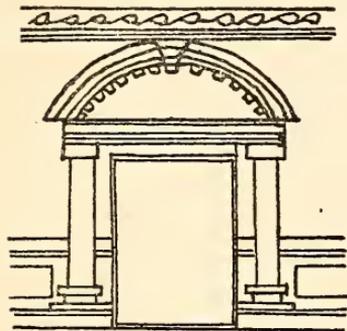
persons, It is interesting to note that the china is probably of the period of 1800(u), and at that time cost about fifteen dollars. There is one china candle-stick with two pairs of snuffers and a tray. A complete set of jelly glasses and wine glasses, one ale mug with the initials S. D., and a cut glass decanter or "bitters bottle" are on the shelves. There is also a large milk jug and an earthenware pitcher with the signs of the zodiac upon it. In a closet stands a lamp, said to be the first in Edenton. It is a small cut glass whale-oil lamp of the period of 1760. There is a Sheriton side-board that has six lion-clawed feet, four compartments, nine drawers and two serving trays. It is a massive piece of furniture made of mahogany, veneered, and is said to have been in the home one hundred and thirty-two years(v). There are upon

(u) China wares made in America in 1830 and cost of same (Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. XII).

(v) Furniture (Schedule of the Margaret E. Bond furniture for sale by her Executor, W. D. Pruden, Edenton, N. C.).

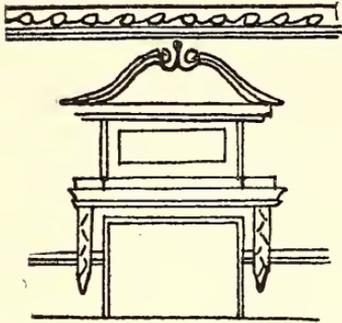
this side-board two very large cut glass candle shades or stands, one cut glass finger bowl and tray, made in water-lily pattern, a berry bowl and a celery stand. In the room there stands a piano made by E. N. Scherr, of Philadelphia, about 1810. There is a Colonial dining table in three pieces, the center piece being drop-leafed and the end pieces rounded. The table when put together is nine feet long. A duck-foot tea-table, drop-leafed and made of solid mahogany once stood in this room. There was here a serving tray made of mahogany about 1700, a butler's stand and two enameled serving trays, and possibly six Chippendale chairs, made about 1710 to 1750. The fire utensils are brass-handled and have brass

holders. On one side of the room a Colonial mirror with a picture of George Washington painted on the top, is fastened to the wall. The portraits of several noted people hang upon the walls, among them Thomas Barker, a lawyer, and his wife, Penelope Barker, the president of the Edenton Tea-Party in 1774.



The lower front room to the left as we enter the hall was used as a drawing room. The door frontal is similar to the one in the dining room except that the arch has a carved wooden keystone. The door frame is plainly molded and the door has a brass lock like the one across the hall. The wash-boarding is six inches high, upon which there is no wainscot, only plastered walls. Three feet from the floor there is a five-inch chair-rail with quirk and ogee molding beneath it. The crown molding is set on a beaded board, and is composed of bands of ogee, square-billet, band and cymatium. The walls and ceiling are plastered and have recently been murescoed green. The two front windows have eighteen panes and two shutters each

and set in egg-and-anchor molding. The two end windows have twelve panes and one shutter each. The hearth is of unpolished marble. Below the mantle shelf there is heavy molding on each side of which there are two long tapering brackets or corbels, hand-carved in beautiful foliations. There is a long panel above the mantel, and on each side of



it inverted brackets support a pediment with a cornice like the crown molding. The tympanum is scalloped, and instead of a gable or arch, on each side there is a molded "Line of Beauty" with rosettes on the end of the volutes.

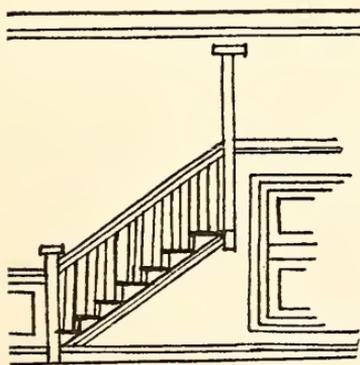
In this room there is a Calendar Grand Father Clock, made in London by William Foote, and about one hundred and

fifty years old. The clock is veneered and very beautifully carved at the top. It has a brass face and silvered dial with an engraving of Father Time upon it. There were also two Chippendale corner chairs, 1750-1775, and seven Chippendale side chairs of the same period. A Chippendale tea-table with a raised rim and made about 1750 is said to have been in the drawing room. On the walls there is a small painting of Miss Penelope Dickinson, a certificate that Nathaniel Bond had received the degree of Master Mason, and the Master Mason's apron of the same man. The fire utensils are brass-handled and there are two very old hand-painted china vases, and one of the two old candle-sticks. Over the mantel-piece there is an interesting cartoon of the Boston Tea-Party, in which the men are nearly as large as the Continents, and certainly larger than the tea ships, and in which England and America are drawn with their natural positions interchanged. Above this cartoon the Dickinson coat-of-arms hangs.

The rear room to the right on the lower floor was merely used as a butler's pantry. It has several rows of shelves, and here may be seen the back of the china closet.

The rear room on the left was used as a bed room. It is the only room of the house that had curtains over the door. It is about eleven feet wide and has a six-inch wash-board, a chair-rail thirty-seven inches from the floor, and a large crown molding. There are two windows and two six-paneled doors, one of them opening into the drawing room. Over the fire-place is a large plain mantel-piece, and above this there was a long mirror in three sections. Nothing definite is known about this furniture.

A beautiful Chippendale stair winds from the first floor, through the second and to the third story. The treads are of heart pine, and some of them are worn to the risers(*w*). Under the projections of the steps there are brackets ornamented with rosettes and foils. The newel or end posts with caps and pendants, and the balusters which are placed three



to a step, are turned out of solid mahogany. The material probably came from the West Indies. The hand-rail on the lower flight of stairs, because of the right turn of three steps, drops to the floor of the landing above and to the middle of the newel post. The hand-rails are of some soft wood. The reason for this is simple; the lathe is a very old machine, and the harder the wood the better can

the work be done, but in Colonial days all the carving had to be done by hand, and the softest possible wood was selected(*x*). The wainscoting of the staircase, like the wain-

(*w*) White pine formerly most extensively used soft wood in America (Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. XVI).

(*x*) Carving on large scale was with white pine, fir, etc. (Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. XVI).

scot of the hall, is stained dark to match the balusters. At the first turn the panel is larger than the others, and here it may be seen that they are made of white pine. The stair makes one and three-fourth turns, and when ascending we may see the heavy wall plates, at least twelve inches thick, between the floors. These plates, like the rest of the frame, are pinned together with wooden pegs.

The hall on the second floor is seven feet nine inches high. It has four exits to rooms. The door to the room above the back right room of the first room is only twenty-three inches wide, the three other doors are thirty inches wide. This hall has a six-inch wash-boarding, no wainscotting, and a plain molded chair-rail. The crown molding is smaller and less elaborate than in the hall below. Of the two windows of the hall, the front one is average size, but the rear window has twenty-eight panes and is very large that it may light the halls of the second and third stories. In the plastering of the ceiling there is one rosette for a hanging lamp, but the lamp is missing.

In this hall there stands a Chippendale clothes press, built about 1750. It is made of solid mahogany and the top is carved in the shape of a shell. There is also a Colonial secretary of solid mahogany.

The door to the room above the dining room is set in a plainly molded frame, is one and one-half inches thick, hangs on heavy English hinges and has a brass lock and fixings. Above the six-inch wash-boarding are horizontal panels, on the stiles of which is placed a molded chair-rail. An upper row of panels, set vertically, reaches the ceiling. A six by six-inch cornice of ogee, ovolo, band and quirk molding rests upon the wainscotting. There are four large windows, each set in plainly molded frames. The fire-place has a marble hearth and is set in heavy molding. Above the mantel-shelf is one long panel between two inverted brackets or consoles. These brackets support a pediment with a plain cornice and a low gable made of the crown molding. This mantel-piece,

like the one in the other room below, was too high for the ceiling.

This room was probably for guests, and in it there was a Sheriton bed, made about 1775. It was built of solid mahogany, was possibly a four-post bed and carved in the pine-apple and acanthus-leaf design. The feet of the bed had brass tips, and it had a rail at the top for a canopy. The other articles of furniture were; a Colonial chest of drawers, veneered, and built about 1800, and a Colonial wash-stand made about the same date.

The large bedroom above the drawing room has no paneled wainscot, but a plain wash-board, chair-rail and crown molding. There are two large windows at the front and two smaller ones at the side. The hearth is cut from marble and the mantel-piece is plainly molded. Over the mantel-piece there is a molded cornice and gable supported by two brackets, foliated and curling over at the top.

There are only a few known articles of furniture that have been in this room for any length of time, namely: A bed, a chest of drawers, and a beautifully carved secretary and work-table.

The room back of the one just mentioned is very small and plainly finished. It has only one window and a plain mantel-piece and fire-place. There is a door opening into the room in front.

The room above the butler's pantry is similar. Nothing definite is known about the furniture in either room.

Since the entrance or passage on the third floor is near the roof of the house, it has no regular shape and can hardly be called a hall. There are three exits to rooms and one to the Cupola. It has a plain wash-board, but no chair-rail or crown molding. Here may be seen the great plates, rafters, purlins and other timbers in the frame of the house.

On both left and right of the third floor there is a small well finished room. Each is plastered and has only one win-

dow. In each room there are two small recesses or closets for linen.

There is a small unfinished room under the gable over the front part of the house. Its only window is the oval or elliptical window in the gable. This room was probably used for storage purposes.

The staircase to the cupola is enclosed in a circular frame. The eighteen steps in the stairway wind around an octagon-shaped newel post. The small trap-door at the top is fastened below with a padlock.

The Cupola, whence the house derived its name, is octagon shaped and has four windows. There is a four-inch washboarding, a chair-rail and a four by five-inch crown molding. The walls and ceiling were plastered, but much of the plaster has fallen. This gives us a good opportunity to view the hand-split laths fastened by hand-wrought nails, the thick plaster and the hair in it. The hair is very short, fine and brown and must have been obtained from the deer. It is said that there was a veranda around the Cupola, but since this cannot be proved, no correct statement can be made concerning it. The southeastern side of the Cupola has never been plastered, and it is said that this was the door to the veranda, but the place could have been left plain with only the intention of putting a veranda around the cupola at some future time. The roof of this cupola, unlike the roof of other cupolas, is in the shape of an ellipse cut through the longer diameter.

There is in the cupola a spy-glass with the body, made of mahogany and brass ends. The glass is forty-eight inches long, two inches thick, and is octagon-shaped.

In the above description the following articles of furniture are left unplaced in the house: Five mahogany lyre back chairs, seven plain chairs and one arm chair to match, one ball-and-claw foot arm-chair made of mahogany, one mahogany hand-carved rocking chair, one Colonial tilt-table about one hundred and forty years old, one small writing table of

cherry, two Colonial candle-stands, one candle-stand of Chinese pattern and made of foreign wood, two marble-top and one plain wash-stands, three towel racks, a Colonial chest of drawers and a Colonial mahogany secretary. In the home may be seen the medicine scales of Dr. Dickinson and a large medicine chest. This chest was made solid to endure the voyage over the ocean. There are in the house some of the medicine bottles and china labels for those bottles.

It is a very interesting and absorbing study to walk through the building, thinking of the noble persons who have graced its spacious halls in olden times, noticing the elaborate and varying styles of architecture, and the valuable old furniture. Surely such a wonderful landmark should be perpetuated by the town and county, if not by the State.

## Greek, Roman, and Arabian Survivals on the North Carolina Coast—A Preliminary Sketch

By COLLIER COBB.

During an acquaintance with our coast dunes and our coast people, extending over more than two score years, I have been impressed by the seeming familiarity of our "Bankers," with Greek and Roman mythology, and with what I early took to be Bible stories with a local setting. I always regarded them, however, as tales that were the common property of our race, that had suffered a sea-change when handed down among isolated and unlearned people whose English ancestors in Elizabeth's time had been very much such people as the best of us today.

In 1902 there came to the University of North Carolina from one of our coast counties, two youths, speaking a singularly pure and idiomatic English, in which one sometimes detected words and expressions not uncommon in the writings of Shakespeare.

One of these youngsters offered to our *University Magazine* a story of the coast, entitled, "Old Nepkin," which was promptly rejected; but I have never seen in any of our college publications freshman work comparable to this. I reproduce the story.

### OLD NEPKIN.

In the spring of 1894 my father, who was a member of the life saving crew at one of the stations of the government along the coast of North Carolina, moved his family, consisting of my mother, baby brother and me, over to the beach at Oregon Inlet Station. At that time this branch of the government service was more confining than it is today, there being no liberties granted during the stormy season. And it was for this reason that a number of the crew moved their families to the station to be with them for the few rough months. In several instances two families lived in one house, as comfortable buildings were scarce. This was the case with us,

and to my great delight our family took up quarters with a family in which there were two boys about my age.

The entire beach was ours, and every day when it was not too cold or rainy, we roamed over the great stretch of sand at our pleasure, each day going farther and farther from home, until we had become familiar with almost every acre of ground for several miles around. Probably it was a fear on the part of our parents and others that we might venture too far or get into the ocean that prompted them to tell us tales of various forms of animals that might capture us and never let us return, a dragon that ate little boys, and a sea monster that caught and ate a little girl for breakfast every morning.

The most interesting to us of all the beings they warned us against was one creature, "Nepkin," as they called him, or by some referred to as "Old Nep." We were told in answer to our numerous questions, that he was the god of the sea, and that he objected most seriously to any intrusion upon his rights or territory; that we must not dare step into the waters of the sea, else we would be taken by him and carried down to his watery home. We were told that he had a house in the ocean, and often times various objects along the coast were pointed out to us as his home. Our young minds could not see anything but truth in the story, and for a short while our explorations and wanderings from home ceased. But the spirit of venture was strong within us, and as the days grew into weeks and no animal of unusual proportions or of frightful appearance visited us, and the tales of such creatures ceased, we resumed our wanderings. It was just after one of our longest trips that the following thing happened:

A nor'wester was blowing, and the wind was "Irish," in the language of the fishermen, who had come to sit a while with us, gathered around the fire on this particular night in March. The shrill whistle of the wind around the corner of the wooden house made us hover closer to the stove as the night hours wore on. Just for the moment conversation had waned, and the crackling of the fire and the noise of the wind was all that disturbed the silence.

"It's a great night for Nepkin," said one of the men. "He is allus aloose sich a night as this. The cold, high wind attracts him from his ocean house to the land for a while to see what's going on."

"Yessir, and I jes' feel like he's comin' here, too," said another of the fishermen. "How'd ye like to see Old Nep tonight, boys?" This he said to us three little fellows, hovered close together near the fire.

"I'm not afraid," I said; but my face, already anxious with fear, belied my words, and while I was making the boast a blast of wind blew the shutters on the window against the house with great force, and I turned ghastly pale as I jumped in fright. Lance, the younger of my friends, said nothing, but was apparently as scared as I, for he jumped when I did.

But Jim, about ten, the oldest of the three, and, naturally the bravest, held his nerve. He had often told Lance and me, when we were discussing among ourselves the tales that we had heard, that he did not believe in such a thing as Old Nepkin, and bragged that he would never run from him. And now, even though afraid, we felt an approaching pleasure in that we hoped to see Jim take back his boast.

"I'll not run," said Jim, to the questions of the fishermen. "And what's more, if he comes here tonight I'll punch his eyes out."

"Never mind, young feller, ye'll be sorry ye said that afore this midnight," said an older man, whose serious attitude foretold no joke. 'Old Nep's a-comin' shure this time.'"

"Now don't scare the children," said our mothers in almost the same breath, seeing that two of us, at least, were scared almost out of our wits. "Neptune isn't coming here a night like this."

"Jes' the kind o' night he wants," replied the persistent old fisherman. "And, by the gods, it's the 13th, too. 'Pears like I've hearn the old folks say he allus crawls out on the 13th. If it's cold and blust'ry, with a forty er fifty knot gale like tonight, he roams about a while. My 'pinion is that this's the kind o' night he's lookin' fer."

By this time I was almost helplessly frightened. The movement of a chair or of a foot on the floor drove my heart almost out of my mouth. And my playmate, Lance, was suffering the same feelings. But Jim still maintained that he was not frightened, and stuck to his boast that he would not run. The fishermen seemed to get much delight from our evident terror, and attempts on the part of our mothers to change the subject failed several times.

A spell of quiet had fallen over the entire crowd. The wind sounded louder and more shrill than it had for an hour. Not a word had been spoken for several moments, and it seemed that every one waited in expectant quiet for the enactment of something unusual. And in the midst of this strained silence, when even the nerves of the hardy fishermen seemed tense with excitement—rap! rap! rap! sounded loudly on the door, and a coarse cough was heard from without. Enough for me. I jumped and ran to my mother. Lance ran to his. Both of us, I believe, were too scared to scream. I could not have made a noise had I tried.

"That's Old Nep now," said one of the men. "I said he was a-comin', and he's here shure as day. Open the door, Bill."

The door flew open in answer to three more raps, louder than the first, and in rushed a gust of the northwester. But I felt it not. The only sense which I had at the time was that of sight, and what I saw in the doorway would have any child of my age out of his senses. There stood what looked to be a man, dressed in heavy, black oilclothes. He was wearing boots, and water was dripping from him as if he had just come out of the sea. His face was very

hairy and dark, the features almost hidden by the beard. Two ghastly looking eyes viewed the room over, and the large, black mouth opened in speech, saying: "Ah, there's the three little boys who have been wandering at large on this beach, which borders on my sea. I want one of them, and as I was ashore, thought I would stop in for him."

Quiet was supreme and intense. Except for the pounding of my heart, I heard nothing. The beating breakers on the beach, the roaring wind around the chimney, the sound of the sand, blown by the wind, striking the window panes, touched not my ear. I saw only this horrid monster, as he looked from one to another of us boys, apparently deciding which one to take. I did not question, in my mind, his power to take any one of us he wanted. I felt sure no hand would be raised in opposition to this god of the sea. My only hope was a selfish one, that he might take one of the other boys.

Neptune advanced toward the center of the room, and in following his movement, my gaze fell upon the place where I last saw Jim. It was vacant. Anxious lest he should get away and make my chance of selection one to two, instead of one to three, I turned for the first time, since Old Nep's arrival, and looked around. What I saw almost chilled the blood in my veins. Jim, whom I had termed a braggart, Jim, the boastful, had now become Jim, the daredevil, and was advancing toward Old Neptune with a stick of wood. The fishermen warned him; his mother told him to sit down, but Jim advanced in a warlike attitude. I just knew he was doomed.

Old Nep viewed his bravery with seeming satisfaction. "Aha, youngster, you're pretty brave. I think I'll take you to live with me in my home under the sea. Come along," he said, and reached forward. But Jim was not to be taken without a fight, and interest in the oncoming battle got keen.

"I'll gouge your eyes out," said Jim, and made a lunge at the intruder that was not to be scorned. Neptune jumped to one side to avoid the lick, and at the same time made a grab for my young friend. Jim was too quick. Jumping to one side, he began to wage an offensive battle, striking so rapidly with the stick that Old Nep necessarily took a defensive stand, trying only to get hold of the would-be giant killer. Several passes failed, but the spirit of youth was afire, and he gained grit as he fought. But he was too small against his larger and more powerful adversary, and was gradually forced to a defense. Chances looked slim for Jim, as he was pressed into a corner striking now wildly as he dropped back. Realizing that he could not hit effectively from a side angle or from above, Jim changed his war tactics, and before Old Nep knew what had happened, a straight-out thrust of the stick caught him in the face. His attempt to brush it aside only aided the little fighter. Developments were rapid. The thrust, the attempt to foil it, the

result in an instant. Before us stood a somewhat abashed and well known member of the life saving crew, his mask hanging from the end of the stick. And Jim, triumphant, said: "I told you there weren't no Nepkin, and now I know there ain't."

No explanation of how that was just a make-up, but that the real Neptune did exist, had any future effect upon us, and after that we roamed at large, led by our hero and comrade, Jim.

The boy left his story with me and has recently given me permission to publish it. He remained at the University only two years, taught school for sometime, and is now on the staff of a Virginia newspaper. It is to be hoped that he will retain and strengthen the simple, straightforward style of his youth.

For many years I have written down the tales and songs of our coast, and I soon satisfied myself that most of them were of old world origin. Neptune and Vulcan were both there, but both frequently under other names. Perseus and Andromeda were there, but usually as St. George and the King's Daughter. Lamia was there, but as a sweet young girl who had been turned into a wicked old witch by a jealous woman.

I have also heard such songs as "The Three Fishes," "The Fruit of the Apple Tree," "The Black-Eyed Maid," "Dimos and the Turkish Girl," "The Wounded Deer," "The Death of Marko Botsaris," and Greek folk songs of the past three centuries.

There is also heard on Hatteras a "Frog's Concert," that may be a survival from Aristophanes; but, if from Aristophanes, it has undergone great change.

Then there are stories of "The Healing Balm," "The Fountain of Youth," or "The Water of Life," such as one finds in Oriental folk-tales generally, whether of Christian or of Moslem origin.

A distich or two will illustrate a type of verse not uncommon:

"Thy lips are coral red, thy neck is crystal white,  
The mole that's on thy rosy cheek is made of diamond bright."

And this:

"Before thy doorway as I pass, thy footprint there I know;  
I bend and fill your track with tears, that as I kiss it flow."

The Harvard student who wrote:

"Whenever she comes I am ready to kiss the mud from her rubbers,"  
did not show greater devotion.

This bashful lover is found on Shackleford Bank:

"What a simple fool I be,  
To let you slip away from me!  
I found you all alone I wot;  
With kisses sweet I fed you not;  
I gazed on you unsatisfied,  
And thus I sat by love tongue-tied.  
Your mother mild, where then was she?  
Your father stern, where then was he?  
Your mother at the church did pray,  
Your dad at Ocrocock did stay,  
And by you sat this idiot meek,  
Whose downcast eyes the earth did seek."

The man who gave me this was named Physioc, and told me that his forebears had been Greek slaves in New Smyrna, Florida, having been brought to Florida in 1767 with a number (about 1,500) of Greek, Italian, and Minorcan laborers, to work on an indigo plantation owned and controlled by Dr. Trumbull, of Charleston, who reduced them to slavery and treated them cruelly. This slavery lasted nine years, or until 1776, when a new governor of Florida, just arrived, heard their complaints and released them from the tyranny of Trumbull. Hardly a third of their number survived, and most of these made their way to St. Augustine, where some of their descendants live to this day, and some moved northward along the coast as far as Cape Hatteras. Among names he gave me, as belonging to these people, were Joseph Gurganus, Theophilus Man, Nicholas Blackman, Moses Baros, Matthew Adomes, and told me that Metrah was a very com-

mon Christian name among them, being a diminutive of Demetrius. I myself know three men named Metrah, but the name of one of them is traced to a dream his mother had, and not to any Greek origin.

But all the names he gave me are found in abstracts of wills made in North Carolina before 1767 and 1776. They are found in every census we have ever had, and are on the voting lists of several of our eastern countries. It is thus very evident that if Greeks came from New Smyrna to our Banks they found here many men like themselves in name and probably also in origin.

I have several stories that are clearly Oriental in origin, that I have also traced to a possible source:

#### A STORY OF JOB AND THE ORIGIN OF SILKWORMS.

The good God had permitted Satan to tempt Job; and the Evil One sent a swam of flies against him, so that the holy man was smitten with sore boils from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet. When the good God saw the wretchedness of his servant Job, he sent his messenger, Gabriel, to comfort him; and Gabriel, swooping down suddenly, scooped out the sand with his wing. Soon the hollow in the sand filled with the water of life, and the angel Gabriel told Job to go dip himself seven times in this. Job did so, and his flesh came to him again as the fish of a little child. Out of each boil came a grub; and the grubs were sore afraid, and climbed the mulberry trees and spun for themselves cocoons that they might hide from the wrath of God. You may know that this story is true, for you have all heard of Job, and you may see the lake and the mulberry trees on Ocrocoke to this day.

Another Oriental story with a local setting is, "How Mack Williams Pulled the Moon Out of the Lake"; and still another is, "How Dr. Closs (the Methodist minister whose circuit was "Islands and Banks") divided the fish."

The most elaborate story, however, is about

#### KING SOLOMON AND THE WATER OF LIFE.

King Solomon had heard that a lake of living water lay in the center of Africa, a year's journey across the burning desert, and he sent a trusted lieutenant to look into the truth of the story and mark out a way to this water of life.

After two years the messenger returned with the report of a successful trip. He had found the great sea of living water whose boundaries were out of sight. The borders of this sea were inhabited by a swarthy race, vigorous men and fruitful women, none of them above middle age.

The king inquired of his servant if he himself had tested the virtue of the waters. "No, my Lord and King," he answered, "I would not think of bathing in the lake before my master; but the efficacy of the waters is proven by the inhabitants of the region." Solomon forthwith began preparation for the journey. He ordered to be got ready sheep and oxen, and he-asses and men-servants, and maid-servants and she-asses and camels, with ample supplies of corn, wine and water for the pilgrimage.

The day before the time for his departure, his favorite wife, Number 999, said to him, "My Lord, are you willing to go bathe in the Fountain of Youth to remain young forever, and see me grow old and wrinkled by your side?"

"Surely not, for you are going with me," her lord replied.

"Indeed, I cannot," said the favorite; "I could never stand the journey across the desert."

"Then I'll not go," the king announced; and that is why we do not know to this day where the fountain of youth may be.

Again we have to turn to local tradition to account for these survivals, if such they are. We are told that some years before our Revolutionary War, a party of Protestant Mohammedans—Warhabi, they were called—going as missionaries to the West Indies, were blown far out of their course by a storm and wrecked on Diamond Shoals, just south of Cape Hatteras. Most of them escaped drowning and found refuge on Hatteras and on Ocracoke Island. John Hawks, a Moor of Malta, who had been educated in England, was passing on a ship bound from New York to New Bern, and rescued from this wreck a lady who afterwards became his wife. Hawks was the architect of Tryon's Palace at New Bern, and his descendants have been and are today, people of great ability, usefulness and prominence.

The Wahabis were a strict sect who opposed all practices not sanctioned by the Koran, and denounced all commentaries, and all such modern innovations as the worship of relics. By some writers they have been styled Mohammedan Puri-

tans, and others have called them Mohammedan Methodists. We soon find the Wahabis of North Carolina affiliating with the Methodists, who were so active in all good works about this time, and our Wahabs have for a hundred and fifty years been useful and highly valued citizens.

Another family name whose presence in the Carolinas dates back to the shipwreck of these Arabian Wahabis, is Dargan, which like Wahab at that time was a group name. The Dargan was a priest, a saint, a man of singularly pure character, and this family has numbered among its members many Christian ministers true to the ancestral type.

This paper cannot be called a study; it is hardly more than a hurried sketch; but the writer hopes that it may lead to a careful study of many features of our anthropogeography.

## Appeal for Clothing for Destitute Belgians and Northern French Meets Nationwide Response

There are in the occupied areas of Belgium and Northern France about nine millions of people. More than one-third are either totally or partially destitute, and nearly all are urgently in need of clothing. In behalf of these unfortunate civilian victims of the war the Commission for Relief in Belgium has issued an urgent appeal to the people of the United States for new clothes, for the material to make them, for shoes, or for money to purchase either of these necessities. If they are not forthcoming there will be intense suffering.

We are going to put the American people to the test by asking for cloth, and for brand new clothes and shoes.

“Any kind of cloth, any kind of yarn, any kind of blankets, so they are new. All of these clothes will go straight to human beings.

“All the cloth will be made up into garments by Belgian women, who will be paid decent wages in food to take home with them. And while they work they will be able to sit in warm rooms, where there is some small comfort, which they are not likely otherwise to have.

“And yet, and yet, where are all of the pieces of cloth to come from? Three million people! It takes a lot of cloth.”

### IMPORTANT.

All persons wishing to contribute wearing apparel or cloth, or funds to be used in the purchase of cloth, for the destitute **WOMEN AND CHILDREN** of Belgium and Northern France are asked to communicate with Dr. S. Westray Battle, Chairman, or E. Alexis Taylor, Field Secretary, North Carolina Commission for Relief in Belgium, 23 Haywood Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

The *North Carolina Booklet* will receive funds or clothing for the destitute in Belgium and Northern France. Send to the Editor of the North Carolina Booklet, "Midway Plantation," Raleigh, North Carolina, and every contribution will be forwarded to the North Carolina Commission for Relief in Belgium, Asheville, North Carolina, and acknowledged in these columns.

## Historical Book Reviews

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### LITERATURE IN THE ALBEMARLE.

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BY NINA HOLLAND COVINGTON.

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The watchman on the watch-towers of North Carolina literature has every reason to rejoice at the many signs of promise for a greater State Literature. The recent announcement that the State Legislature has voted a goodly sum of money for the writing of an accurate history of North Carolina's part in the Civil War is surely one of these signs; and other indications of literary activity are the numerous recently published books by North Carolinians.

The latest of these books is the "Literature of the Albemarle," which is just from the press, and which is by Miss Bettie Freshwater Pool, of Elizabeth City. Miss Pool is one of the well known writers of the State, being the author of various volumes of prose and poetry. The book consists of brief sketches of the chief writers of the Albemarle section, and several selections from the writings of each one of these are given. Frankly, there are perhaps few people in the State who knew, or realized, that Albemarle could lay claim to so many of the talented men and women of North Carolina; but, considering how many famous names are in the index of the volume, Albemarle deserves to be called our literary "hub."

Those included in the book are the following: Dr. Richard Dillard, Catherine Albertson, Frank Vaughn, Dr. Stephen B. Weeks, Col. R. B. Creecy, William Temple, Walter Pool, Charles Carroll Pool, Bettie Freshwater Pool, Ralph Pool, Lilla Pool Price, Cecil Pool, Dollie Freeman Beeler, Hon. C. L. Cobb, John M. Matthews, Rev. Solomon Pool, Theodore A. Pool, Senator John Pool, Lila Sessford, Dr. William G. Pool, William E. Dunstan, William M. Hinton, Judge Francis D. Winston, and Judge William A. Moore.

The first writer given in the volume is Dr. Richard Dillard, who is so well known in State literary and historical circles. The selections given from Dr. Dillard's writings consist of prose poems, historical sketches, and two poems. Dr. Dillard's style is graceful, and he uses to great advantage and with most excellent taste a wealth of allusion to literary and historical subjects, while his thorough knowledge of the history of his section of the State make his historical sketches very valuable and important.

The work of Catherine Albertson, who has recently gained fame as the writer of the historical book, "In Ancient Albemarle," is represented by several poems, which show that her poetical talent is of a very high order. Indeed, it is the opinion of the writer of this review that Miss Albertson's poem, "The Perquimans River," which is given among these poems, contains lines that are among the most beautiful in our Southern Literature:

"The wild swan floats upon my breast;  
 The sea-gulls to my waters sink;  
 And stealing to my low green shores,  
 The timid deer oft stoops to drink.  
 The yellow jessamine's golden bells  
 Ring on my banks their fairy chime  
 And tall flag lilies bow and bend,  
 To the low music, keeping time.

Between my narrow, winding banks,  
 Full many a mile I dream along  
 'Mid silence deep, unbroken save  
 By rustling reed, or wild bird's song;  
 Or murmuring of my shadowed waves  
 Beneath the feathery cypress trees,  
 Or Pines, responsive to the breath  
 Of winds that breathe sea memories."

Dr. Stephen B. Weeks, whom North Carolina has lost as a resident, since he is now with the United States Bureau of Education in Washington, is another famous Albemarian. Dr. Weeks is perhaps as well known outside the State as he

is in it, for he has written so much on historical subjects, his writings showing such accuracy and giving evidence of such painstaking research, that he is looked upon as an authority on the subjects upon which he has written. The selections from Dr. Weeks' writings given in this book are good examples of the terse, clear, straightforward style which makes his books not only attractive to the casual reader, but also the delight of the student of historical facts and the literary critics.

Still another well known North Carolinian who is included among the Albemarle writers is Judge Francis D. Winston, the witty and distinguished jurist from Bertie County. The selection given from Judge Winston's writings is the poem on Masonry, which is characterized by dignity of tone and a deep reverence, and is justly considered one of the most beautiful and stately poems even written on the subject. Judge Winston's ability as a speaker is noticed in the sketch of his life, and it seems a pity that selections from one or more of his speeches are not included in the book.

The biographical sketch of Bettie Freshwater Pool is written by W. M. Hinton. The selections from her writings include the well known and justly famous "Carolina," and quite a number of other poems, the most beautiful, perhaps, of these being the "Angel of My Gethsemane." Among the prose selections from her pen is given "The Nag's Head icture of Theodosia Burr," which is a well written article on a curious and little known bit of history.

The other writers of the volume include orators, essayists and poets all of the selections given showing literary merit.

The warm welcome which has met the volume since its publication is most encouraging to writers of the present generation, while the matter contained in the book will, no doubt, be an inspiration to future State authors.

Miss Pool's poem, "Harp of the South," is a very beautiful and fitting introduction to the book:

"Harp of the South, too long hast thou been  
Thrill with new life! Awake! Mute,  
Let thy rich notes, as sweet as Rizzio's flute,  
Fill every heart with fire.  
Rouse valor, honor, truth, divine desire  
For higher things. Harp of the South, awake!

Harp of the South, too long this land of ours,—  
Home of the free, the brave—  
So rich in story, bright with honor's flowers,  
Behold thy strings unstrung.  
Her noblest deeds no golden cords hath rung,  
Sound glorious praise! Harp of the South, awake!"

## Biographical Sketches of Contributors

COMPILED AND EDITED BY MRS. E. E. MOFFITT.

### KEMP PLUMMER BATTLE, LL.D.

A Biographical Sketch of Dr. Battle appeared in the *Booklet*, Vol. VII, No. 2. To this issue he contributes the valuable article entitled "The Secession Convention of 1861." He is now eighty-four years of age, sound in mind and body, and is the last survivor of that notable Convention.

### DR. COLLIER COBB.

Dr. Cobb has contributed many interesting papers to the *Booklet*. A sketch of him appeared in the *Booklet*, Vol. XI, No. 3.

### MR. MACK CHAPPELL.

Mr. Chappell has never before contributed to this publication. His article on "The Cupola House and Its Associations" is of such value, showing such painstaking research, that members of the Advisory Board decided that it should be published. Mr. Chappel is a young man whose ambition urges him to make his life a success by his own efforts. He graduated at the Edenton Academy, May, 1915, and is now at Mars Hill, North Carolina. This paper was one of a number written and presented in the contest for the Colonel John Hinton medal at the Edenton Academy in May, 1915. This medal is given in memory of this Revolutionary hero, who was a native of Chowan Precinct for the finest essay on some given local historical subject and is one of the leading feautres of each commencement at the Academy. This, however, did not win the medal, which shows of what high order the essays are. It was considered worthy of recognition, so for the first time a second prize was given.

We shall watch with interest Mr. Chappell's progress and sincerely wish him all success.