Vol. VI. JANUARY, 1907 No. 3

The North Carolina Booklet

GREAT EVENTS
IN
NORTH CAROLINA
HISTORY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY
BY
THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION

CONTENTS

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Great Events in North Carolina History.

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Parties who wish to renew their subscription to the BOOKLET for Vol. VI, are requested to notify at once.

Address,
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"MIDWAY PLANTATION,"
Raleigh, North Carolina.

EDITORS:
MISS MARY HILLIARD HINTON,
MRS. E. E. MOFFITT.

LaFayette Examining Canova's Statue of Washington in the Rotunda of the State House, 1825.

Vol. VI. JANUARY, 1907. No. 3

The North Carolina Booklet

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

Published by
THE NORTH CAROLINA SOCIETY
DAUGHTERS OF THE REVOLUTION

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. Editors.

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THE NORTH CAROLINA BOOKLET.

Vol. VI JANUARY, 1907 No. 3

A STATE LIBRARY BUILDING AND DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND RECORDS.

BY R. D. W. CONNOR.

"The roots of the Present lie deep in the Past, and the Past is not dead to him who would understand how the Present came to be what it is."

A people who will constantly bear this great truth in mind will come to regard their history as something more than a fascinating story with which to beguile a winter's evening; they will think of their Past as something better than merely a subject for Fourth-of-July orations; they will study the careers of their great men with higher and nobler purposes than as stepping stones for membership into the "Sons" of this or the "Daughters" of that patriotic organization. Not that the romance of history, or the eloquence of the orator, or the formation of patriotic societies, are to be put aside as unworthy of serious consideration. But the study of history does have another and more important side to it, and a side too that often escapes the notice of those most in need of a knowledge of their Past. It is this: no men can safely be entrusted with the control of the Present who are ignorant of the Past; and no people who are indifferent to their Past need hope to make their Future great.

This is a lesson which those states of the Union that enjoy the greatest historical and literary reputation learned many years ago; it is a lesson which our own state needs to take seriously to heart. I am happy in thinking that our people are learning it and that they realize to-day more than ever

before the value of the steadying ballast which an accurate knowledge of the Past gives to the Present. But it is a lesson which, though fully appreciated, will be of little value unless the material is preserved which is necessary to make the Past intelligent to the Present and the Future. To this feature of the lesson I desire your closest attention.

We North Carolinians are very proud of our history and indulge ourselves in the pleasure of a great deal of boasting about it. But frequently when this indulgence, like an opiate, begins to soothe our spirits and we doze away in blissful contemplation of the greatness of our Past, it comes like a cold-water shock to find that the World, instead of gazing in admiring astonishment, is either whirling along in densest ignorance, or vigorously disputing our most cherished claims. Then we wake up, begin to say harsh things about our traducers, and clamor loudly about envy and jealousy. But the critical World, searching the pages of the great historians of our country and finding no mention of those "cherished claims," naturally asks for proof; and lo! we look, and the proof, which we believe would settle our claims beyond all dispute, has been lost, destroyed, burned, or stolen by envious partisans. Whom can we blame but ourselves, for who else should take care to preserve this proof? Surely it is an anomaly in our character as a people and as a state that we should be so proud of our history and so careless in the preservation of the records that would establish our claims forever. It may be doubted if any other of the thirteen original states has suffered more in this respect than North Carolina, or is now taking so little care for the preservation of the evidences of her greatness. Surely this is modesty run in the ground!

Even this very carelessness illustrates the influence of the Past upon the Present, and the value of a study of the Past if for no other purpose than to avoid its blunders. Our

carelessness in the preservation of our historical sources seems to have come down to us as an unwelcomed legacy from the Past. As long ago as 1748 Governor Gabriel Johnston in a letter to the Lords of the Board of Trade wrote:

"The Publick Records lye in a miserable condition, one part of them at Edenton near the Virginia Line in a place without Lock or Key; a great part of them in the Secretarys House at Cape Fear above Two Hundred Miles Distance from the other; Some few of 'em at the Clerk of the Council's House at Newbern, so that in whatever part of the Colony a man happens to be, if he wants to consult any paper or record he must send some Hundred of Miles before he can come at it."*

It seems that our ancestors had no more regard for their valuable documents than their posterity have.

No better illustration of the effect of this almost criminal negligence in caring for our historical sources can be found than the history of the documents relating to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The people of North Carolina are so firmly convinced that their story of this interesting event is correct that they swear by it spite of lost documents; they have placed on the flag of their state the date, "May 20th, 1775," in the face of all Thomas Jefferson's disbelieving sarcasm; they even lose patience with anybody who hints that the event might have taken place on May 31. And yet not one of the leading historians of the United States, from Bancroft to Woodrow Wilson, has accepted our version. Why? Whose the fault? The following facts will answer these very natural questions. Dr. George Graham, whose work on the "Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence" is the fullest and best treatment in existence, quotes the following paragraph from Martin's History of North Carolina:

*Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. IV., p. 1165.

"These resolutions [of May 20, 1775] were unanimously adopted and subscribed by the delegates. James Jack, then of Charlotte, but now residing in the State of Georgia, was engaged to be the bearer of the resolutions to the President of Congress, and directed to deliver copies of them to the delegates in Congress from North Carolina. The President returned a polite answer to the address which accompanied the resolutions, in which he highly approved of the measures adopted by the delegates of Mecklenburg, but deemed the subject of the resolutions premature to be laid before Congress. Messrs. Caswell, Hooper and Hewes forwarded a joint letter, in which they complimented the people of Mecklenburg for their zeal in the common cause."

What has become of these two letters—these very important letters, either of which would settle the dispute forever? In all the years of controversy over the Mecklenburg Declaration, no one has produced them, or copies of them. Is it not strange that documents so valuable should not have been carefully preserved? But even this is not all. Dr. Graham continues:

"At the meeting of the delegates in Charlotte, John McKnitt Alexander was chosen secretary, and thus became custodian of the records. In April, 1800, twenty-five years after this meeting, these records, including the Mecklenburg Declaration, were burned in Alexander's house. In the meantime, however, the old secretary, as he is called, had transcribed not less than five copies of the original resolutions. . . . . There is abundant evidence to prove that at least seven authentic copies of these resolutions were in existence before the proceedings of the convention were burned in 1800. Of these seven transcripts, four, at the direction of the delegates, were transmitted to Congress at Philadelphia by John McKnitt Alexander, shortly after the

meeting at Charlotte adjourned. One to the President, and one copy each to the three members from North Carolina. A fifth copy appeared in the Cape Fear Mercury in June, 1775, within thirty days after the declaration was adopted. A sixth copy was presented by Alexander to Dr. Hugh Williamson, who was then writing a history of the State. . . . And a seventh copy of the declaration, which the author says was obtained before 1800, the year the records were burned, is preserved in Martin's History of North Carolina."

These facts show that at one time there certainly was plenty of evidence in existence to settle beyond controversy what took place in Charlotte in May, 1775. What became of it? This was an event generally regarded as the proudest in a proud history. Is it possible that a people proud of their history and proud that they are proud of it, would complacently permit every one of these valuable documents to be destroyed without making one single effort to preserve them? And yet read the story as told in Tompkins' History of Mecklenburg County. He says:

"The official papers [of the 20th of May meeting] were burned in the fire which destroyed John McKnitt Alexander's house in 1800."

"A copy of the original was sent before the burning of the house to the historian, Williamson, in New York, and it, together with the other sources of his history, were (sic) destroyed by a fire in that city."

"The Martin copy is so called from its publication in Martin's History of North Carolina. . . . As to this particular document of the Mecklenburg Declaration, Martin . . . obtained it in the western part of the State prior to the year 1800. . . . The papers from which Martin compiled his history were sent to France and have disappeared."

"A third copy, called the Garden copy, was published in 1828 by Alexander Garden of Lee's Legion, and this is almost exactly identical with the Martin copy, which is regarded as the authentic copy." After showing that Garden could not have obtained his copy from Martin, Tompkins says: "The data for Garden's anecdotes has (sic) been lost."

But what about the Cape Fear Mercury of June, 1775? "No copy of the Cape Fear Mercury of June, 1775," says Tompkins, "has ever come to light except the copy which Gov. Martin sent to London and which Mr. Stevenson, of Virginia, borrowed and did not return."

The letter of the President of Congress gone; the joint letter of the delegates gone; Alexander's copy burned; Williamson's copy burned; Martin's copy lost; Garden's copy lost; the Cape Fear Mercury stolen—is it any wonder that Jefferson characterized the Declaration as "a very unjustifiable quiz," saying that for proof it appeals to "an original book, which is burnt, to Mr. Alexander, who is dead, to a joint letter from Caswell, Hughes (sic), and Hooper, all dead, to a copy sent to the dead Caswell, and another sent to Doctor Williamson, now probably dead."

These facts tell us why the historians do not accept our story, and they place the responsibility on our shoulders, where it belongs.

Another illustration of this point is found in the burning of the State-house at Raleigh in the morning of June 21, 1831. The Raleigh Register of June 23 contained the following account:

"It is our painful and melancholy duty to announce to the public another appalling instance of loss by fire, which will be deeply felt and lamented by every individual in the State. It is nothing less than the total destruction of the capitol of our State located in this city. . . . The State

THE RUINS OF CANOVA'S STATUE OF WASHINGTON.
NOW IN THE HALL OF HISTORY AT RALEIGH

Library is also consumed, and the statue of Washington, that proud monument of national gratitude, which was our pride and glory, is so mutilated and defaced, that none can behold it but with mournful feelings, and the conviction involuntarily forces itself upon their (sic) minds, that the loss is one that cannot be repaired. The most active exertions were made to rescue this *chef d'oeuvre* of Canova from the ravages of the devouring element, nor were they desisted from until the danger became imminent."

The same paper of June 30 adds this information:

"Nothing was saved from the Library, nor could any attempt for that purpose be made by reason of the suffocating smoke which filled the room. It was in its infancy and the loss can easily be repaired with one or two exceptions. We allude to the collection of our old Legislative Journals, brought down in almost unbroken succession from 1715 to the present day. Lawson's history of the State, valuable only however for its antiquity, was also burnt."

The Raleigh Star of June 23 tells the story in the following words:

"Great concern was manifested for the preservation of the statue of Washington, which stood in the center of the rotunda, and an effort was made to save it; but it was vain and fruitless; and this monument, reared by the grateful and patriotic citizens of North Carolina, in honor of the father of our country, at an expense of about $30,000, and which was said to be the finest piece of sculpture in the world, was abandoned in despair to share the fate of the superstructure which it had so long graced."

Unfortunate as was the destruction of this splendid work, its loss was not the worst feature of the incident; the very worst feature was the fact that the statue could have been saved but for the short-sightedness and parsimony of the

legislature. A noble statue of the greatest of Americans, costing $30,000, a monument no less to the wisdom, patriotism and liberality of our forefathers than to the genius of the great Italian sculptor, was destroyed because a few politicians, without courage, without the generous fire of patriotic impulse, thinking to incur the favor of the populace, refused to appropriate the sum of $1,200 to secure its safety. The wretched story is told in the following paragraph from the Cape Fear Recorder, which, after lamenting the loss of the statue, says:

"Alfred Moore, Esq., one of the members from Brunswick County, made a motion in the first session of the General Assembly, after the statue was conveyed to Raleigh, that it should be placed on rollers, and that the doors of the capitol should be enlarged, so as to render it practicable to move it from the edifice in the event of a fire. The expense was estimated at $1,200. The motion of Mr. Moore was renewed at the following session and was grounded on his observation of the carelessness and negligence of the menials and workmen employed about the capitol, and on these facts he predicted the event which now affects so extensively and so deeply the inhabitants of the State; and he rung and rerung this prediction in the ears of his colleagues—*that the capitol would be burned!* The warning was unheeded; and we naturally enquire, on what defensible ground was it? Is it not to be imputed to those narrow views of economy, which are not only opposed to the counsels of liberal patriotism, in instances such as this, but also too often shed a blighting influence on the lasting interests and prosperity of the public?"*

* Of this great work of Canova, the Countess Albrizzi in "The Works of Antonio Canova," illustrated by Henry Moses the great English engraver, says:

"In this fine composition Canova has not only maintained the dignity of his subject, but (warmed by admiration of the amiable qualities of

A third illustration of our carelessness with our records occurring in our own time was related to me recently by Colonel Fred A. Olds, the enthusiastic and zealous director of the Hall of History. In the basement of the court-house in Cumberland County a few years ago, as he was informed, were stored hundreds of records and other documents running back to the first settlement of Cross Creek. Dust and cobwebs of course covered them, and this fact, which rather added value to them in the eyes of the historian and the antiquary, led the county board of health to condemn the lot as breeders of germs. At their orders these precious documents were dumped in the street and reduced to ashes!

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this illustrious man) has also infused into the statue an expression of the gentleness and benevolence which attempered his severer virtues.

"The hero is sitting with an air of elegant simplicity on an elegant seat, raised on a double square base. Nothing can surpass the dignity of the attitude or the living air of meditation which it breathes; and the grandeur of the style, the force and freedom of the execution, the close and animated resemblance to the original, all conspire to place the statue in the highest rank of art. The fine tunic which he wears is seen only at the knee, being covered by an ample ornamental cuirass; above which is a magnificent mantle fastened by a clasp on the right shoulder, and flowing down behind in majestic folds. Beneath his right foot, which is extended forward, is a parazonium sheathed, and a sceptre, signifying that the successful termination of the war, had rendered them now useless.

"The hero is in the act of writing on a tablet held in his left hand, and resting on the thigh, which is slightly raised for its support. From the following words already inscribed on it, we learn the subject which occupies his mind—'*George Washington to the people of the United States—Friends and Fellow-citizens.*' In his right hand he holds the pen with a suspended air, as if anxiously meditating on the laws fitted to promote the happiness of his countrymen; a border of the mantle, raised to the tablet by the hand which supports it, gives a fine effect to this graceful and decorous action. In his noble countenance the sculptor has finely portrayed all his great and amiable qualities, inspiring the beholder with mingled sensations of affection and veneration. This statue is only in a slight degree larger than life; his robust form corresponding with his active and vigorous mind.

"If to this great man a worthy cause was not wanting, or the means of acquiring the truest and most lasting glory, neither has he been less fortunate after death, when, by the genius of so sublime an artist, he appears again among his admiring countrymen in this dear and venerable form; not as a soldier, though not inferior to the greatest generals, but in his loftier and more benevolent character of the virtuous citizen and enlightened lawgiver."

With the ascending smoke vanished forever a mine of historical sources which, had it been opened, would have told the story of one of the most inspiring events in the history of North Carolina.

Many other instances of the destruction of valuable historical sources through carelessness, negligence, indifference and ignorance might easily be cited, but they would add no new force to those already given. The important question is, What shall we learn from these facts?

First of all, we ought to learn that "those narrow views of economy, which are not only opposed to the counsels of liberal patriotism, . . . but also too often shed a blighting influence on the lasting interests and prosperity of the public," can be defended on the ground neither of economy nor of patriotism. Was it economy to refuse the appropriation of $1,200 to insure the safety of a work which cost $30,000? Putting it merely on a material basis, how many times $1,200 would the state have made during all these years from the visitors who would have come to our capital city to see this noble work of art! Who can estimate the thousands spent annually by visitors to Dresden who go from the four corners of the earth to see the great Sistine Madonna? Was it patriotic—that is to say, was it a faithful fulfilment of the trust imposed in them by their constituents, for the members of the legislature to refuse the appropriation of $1,200 for the preservation of an object that would have been a source of inspiration to generations of their sons and daughters? It was neither economical nor patriotic; nor did the refusal to make the appropriation come from an honest desire to be either; it sprang from a want of trust in the good sense and patriotism of the people.

So it is neither economical nor patriotic to permit our present State Library, Supreme Court Library and the col-

lection in the Hall of History to remain day after day in constant danger of destruction by fire for the lack of a suitable building. We have a State Library creditable to North Carolina. It contains 40,000 volumes exclusive of the pamphlets and bound newspapers in which the history of the state is written. The destruction of this library would be a calamity to North Carolina from which there would be no recovery—thousands of books that could never be replaced; hundreds of newspapers nowhere else to be found; hundreds of pamphlets that could not be bought with gold. A very conservative estimate of the money-value of this library would place it from $150,000 to $200,000. In addition to the State Library, the same unprotected building holds the Supreme Court Library, one of the best state law libraries in our country, containing 17,000 volumes, worth at the lowest estimate $75,000. Adjoining this building is the Hall of History, a large hall at one end of the State Museum. Through the enthusiastic efforts of Colonel Fred A. Olds, who deserves the thanks of all patriotic citizens for his unselfish labors, more than 4,000 historic relics, documents, papers and pictures have been collected there illustrating every period and almost every phase of the life of the state. It is doubtful if any other state in the Union has a more valuable or more instructive collection of historic relics. In an interesting story of the Hall of History, Colonel Olds says:*

"North Carolina is yet rich in such objects, notably of the Colonial and Revolutionary periods; but until this collection began, a little over three years ago, nothing had been done, except in what may be termed very justly a local way, to gather together such objects. By such failure the State has suffered enormous loss, due to the burning of court-houses, public buildings, and, most of all, private homes, in some of

*North Carolina Booklet, October, 1906.

which there were extensive groups of objects, the loss of which is irreparable. But at last the gathering together at Raleigh, where by all manner of means the collection ought to be, has been begun, and the fact that the number of objects now exceeds the 4,000 mark shows not only zeal in collecting, but also an awakened public interest. . . . It is felt that the present Hall of History is what may truly be termed a stepping-stone to higher things; in other words, that it is but the forerunner of a far more noble one, generous as to space, and built on the most modern lines as regards the elimination of risk by fire. Given such a building, and the writer can undertake to secure almost anything in North Carolina."

It is impossible to place anything like a money-value on these three collections—the State Library, the Supreme Court Library, and the Hall of History. They represent thousands of dollars and years of patriotic labor. They are beyond all price, and yet year after year they are left in buildings inadequate in size and arrangement, hardly creditable to a great state in appearance, and totally unprotected from fire. A fire once started in either would sweep like a hurricane through both and reduce the whole to smoke and ashes in spite of all human effort. Is it economy to leave these public treasures thus exposed to destruction? Is it patriotic? Does not the destruction of the Mecklenburg Declaration papers teach us a useful lesson? Has the burning of the capitol no warning for us, the loss of the library, the destruction of the great statue of Washington? And shall we let these warnings go unheeded? Is it possible that the people of North Carolina care so little for their great Past, for the development of an interest in their history, for the cultivation of literature and art among their children, that they would frown down an appropriation from their

public money for the erection of a fire-proof building in which these treasures would be safe? The very question is almost a slander on the good name of the state.

The state is amply able to erect such a building—a building absolutely fire-proof, stately in architectural design, and ample for the purposes to which it shall be devoted. It would be much more than a library building. Patriotic societies would have rooms there for their meetings and records; the State Literary and Historical Association would have offices and record rooms set apart for its work; there too would be offices and archive rooms for a State Commissioner of Records and Archives; a spacious hall would be dedicated as a Hall of History which would be the instructor of thousands in the history of North Carolina:—in a word it would be the headquarters for all the historical and literary activities of future generations of North Carolinians. The hallways would be lined with statues, the walls with portraits, preserving the forms and features of the great men and women who have served the state and nation. On the walls, too, would hang paintings executed by native artists of the great events in our history—the landing of the first Englishmen on Roanoke; the famous May-day scene of '75 at Charlotte; the greater event at Halifax in April of '76; the mad charges up the sides of King's Mountain; the steady resistance at Guilford Court House; Davie and his fellows resting under the old poplar on a balmy October day dreaming of a great university; James C. Dobbin in the halls of legislation pleading with a power surpassing eloquence for those who could not plead for themselves; the long gray line sweeping up the slopes of Gettysburg—all these and many more such historic scenes would be there to inspire hundreds of North Carolina boys and girls with a desire to "serve so good a state and so great a people." And

there, too, would come students to search its treasures who would do for North Carolina and the South all that Bryant and Lowell and Longfellow and Holmes and Emerson and Bancroft and Fiske and a host of other great names have done for Massachusetts and New England. Visited every year by thousands, such a building, like a great beacon-light on a hill, would shed an inspiring light on the historical, literary and educational life of the state that would be worth a hundred times over all the money expended in its construction. It is not possible that the people of North Carolina would regard with disfavor an appropriation for such a purpose; sensible and patriotic people will applaud the legislature that takes this great forward step.

A second lesson equally valuable and equally necessary which the illustrations I have given ought to impress on us is the importance of collecting, copying, editing and publishing the historical sources now in existence *while they are yet in existence.* I have shown how hundreds of invaluable documents and other sources have been lost or destroyed through the carelessness, indifference and ignorance of their owners. Those are hopelessly gone, and with them a mass of historical wealth that can never be regained. But thousands of others remain which should be preserved. I have in mind now a collection of the papers of one of North Carolina's greatest sons containing dozens of most valuable letters, never published, from nearly all of his great contemporaries in the state and many in the nation: letters from Swain, Badger, Graham, Ruffin; from John Randolph of Roanoke, Webster, Marshall, Story, Hamilton, Kent and many more. There is no more valuable collection of private papers in the state and yet for the lack of such a building as I have described and the absence of a means of making use of them, they will doubtless soon be lost to North Carolina.

The owner, who lives in a distant state, has already expressed her intention of presenting them to the Library of Congress at Washington, and I must reluctantly confess that under present conditions I could not urge her to present them to North Carolina, although I know they properly belong here.

There are many other such collections in and out of the state, stuffed away in dark corners, and dusty archives, in pigeon holes, vaults, desks, attics and cellars, containing thousands of records, public and private letters, and other manuscripts of great value. Yet as matters now stand they are as absolutely useless to their owners or to the state as the miser's gold to the miser; but if collected, edited and published, would be a source of mental and moral wealth to North Carolina beyond that which the gold of all the misers could buy. Many of the owners of these collections would willingly part with them if the state had a safe place for their preservation and would provide for their publication.

What then can the state do? The state can follow the example of Alabama, Mississippi, New York, Wisconsin, Iowa, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and all the New England states, and make appropriations for their preservation and publication. The states of Alabama and Mississippi are doing more than any other Southern states for the elucidation of their history and present the best examples for our own state to follow. Each of these states has created a State Department of Archives and Records with a commissioner in charge whose duty it is to care for their historical sources. Let us follow their examples. Such a department, with a commissioner appointed by the Historical Commission, would not cost over $4,000 or $5,000 a year—a trifling sum in comparison with its value to the state. The Alabama act recites the duty of the Alabama commissioner as follows:

"He shall have control and direction of the work and operations of the department, he shall preserve its collections, care for the official archives that may come into its custody, collect as far as possible all materials bearing on the history of the state and of the territory included therein from the earliest times, prepare the biennial register hereinafter provided, diffuse knowledge in reference to the history and resources of the state; and he is charged with the particular duty of gathering data concerning Alabama soldiers in the war between the states."

The biennial register mentioned must contain: "(1) Brief sketches of the several state officials, the members of Congress from Alabama, the supreme court judges, the members of the senate and house of representatives of the State of Alabama; (2) rosters of all state and county officials; (3) lists of all state institutions, with officials; (4) state and county population and election statistics, and (5) miscellaneous statistics."

We cannot do better in North Carolina than follow the example of the state of Alabama. All patriotic citizens would aid the commissioner in his work. Those who possess documents of historical value would gladly place them at his disposal. Thousands of originals or certified copies of church and court records, letters, maps, old newspapers, portraits, manuscripts of all kinds, and other material of value to the student of history, would be entrusted to him for the benefit of the public and a safe repository would be provided for their preservation. All material which cannot be parted with permanently would be returned to the owners after copies were made; and provision would be made for copying such documents as the owners are unwilling to part with at all. The expenses of the work would of course be met by the department. The material after being carefully

edited would be published at the expense of the state and due acknowledgment would be made to all who aided in the work. The great value of such work to the state is splendidly illustrated by the monumental work of Colonel William L. Saunders and Chief Justice Walter Clark in the editing and publication of the Colonial and State Records prior to the year 1790. Until these volumes revealed the true story of the first century and a half of the state's history, it was fashionable among historians to pass it over with slurs and sneers or to ignore it altogether. But such an attitude now would very justly condemn any author to deserved oblivion. What citizen of North Carolina is there who is not gratified and proud of the rescue by these two loyal sons of the good name of their mother?

But as great as this work is, the complete history of North Carolina can never be written until a similar work is done for every decade subsequent to 1790. It is a work that cannot be accomplished except through the medium of the state. It is a work that cannot be accomplished within a year, nor within two years, but is rather the work of a generation. Let us earnestly hope that the intelligent patriotism of the state will demand that it shall be done and thoroughly done at the public expense through a State Department of Records and Archives.

Need any one urge upon intelligent men the necessity for such work? Says Judge Johnson in his "Life of Nathanael Greene": "There is and perhaps ought to be a clannish spirit in the states of the Union, which will ever dispose the writers they produce to blazon with peculiar zeal the virtues and talents of the eminent men of their respective states. . . . It will probably happen in future times, that the states that have produced the ablest writers will enjoy the reputation of having produced the ablest statesmen, generals

and orators." Just so it happens that the World knows by heart the story of Samuel Adams, but even his own people have forgotten the equally great services of Cornelius Harnett; the praise of Richard Henry Lee is on every tongue, but no tongue speaks the name of William R. Davie; the services of John Jay have been justly commemorated, but the more brilliant judicial career of James Iredell is unknown among his own people. Had the story of Virginia Dare occurred in Massachusetts, can it be supposed that no Longfellow would have been found to wrap it up in immortal verse? Consider for a moment how barren is the story of Evangeline when compared to that of the little heroine of the Lost Colony; yet the pen of the poet has brought tears to the eyes of the royal descendant of him in whose name the cruel deed was done. The friendship of an Indian chief probably saved our colony from annihilation, while the hostility of King Phillip came near to destroying the settlement of the Puritan; but no Irving has told the story of Tom Blunt. All the World knows by heart the story of the midnight ride of Paul Revere because a great poet commanded,

> "Listen, my children, and you shall hear
> Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere."

But no poet has commanded the World to harken to the thrilling midnight ride of Mary Slocum.

And there will be no Bancroft, no Fiske, no McMaster to tell our story; no Longfellow and no Irving to write our literature until the work of preserving and preparing for use the sources of our history has been done. So long as we neglect it we need not be surprised, nor will it be manly to complain, if the "scorner shall snear at and the witling defame us."

THE BATTLE OF ROCKFISH CREEK IN DUPLIN COUNTY.

BY J. O. CARR.

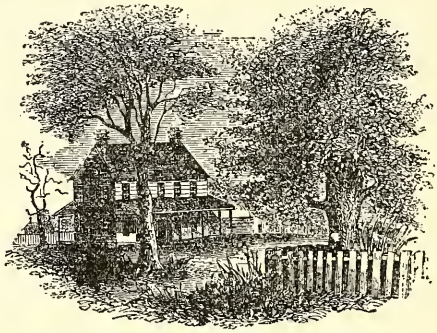
A period of one hundred and twenty-five years has elapsed since the battle of Rockfish Creek was fought in Duplin County on the 2d of August, 1781; but not one line has ever been written to commemorate this event, and few historians know of its occurrence.

In order that the reader may better understand the subject of this sketch, it is well to give an account of the relative movements of the American and British armies in North Carolina at that time.

About the first of February, 1781, Maj. James H. Craig, a British military officer of repute, entered the Cape Fear River with several hundred soldiers prepared to take and hold Wilmington. He had been sent from Charleston by Lord Cornwallis with instructions to seize the town and make it a place of refuge for the Tories and a place of retreat for the British army in case of any disaster, while Cornwallis himself proceeded to the Piedmont section of the state with the hope of completing the conquest of North Carolina.

On the very day that Craig entered Wilmington the battle of Cowan's Ford was fought, in which the brilliant and gallant William L. Davidson was killed, and Cornwallis and Gen. Nathaniel Greene were engaged in the famous campaign of 1781. Craig immediately issued a proclamation urging the people of North Carolina to renew their allegiance to the royal government, and the Tories throughout the State were rallying around the standard of the enemy—some because of their loyalty to the English government, and others because they saw no hope in further resistance; but there

were yet many who were willing to die in the cause they had espoused. It is said that twelve out of fifteen companies of militia in Bladen County were at heart favorably disposed to the Crown, though still enlisted in the American cause. To some extent a similar condition existed in Duplin and New Hanover Counties, and in June, 1781, out of a draft of 70 in Duplin for the Continental army only 24 appeared (1).



HOME OF ALEXANDER LILLINGTON.

Immediately after arriving in Wilmington, Maj. Craig began depredations in the county and sent a party up the North East River to the "great bridge," which spanned the river about twelve miles north of Wilmington, where it was crossed by the Duplin road. The bridge was demolished and some American store-ships, which lay concealed there for safety, were burned. It was not easy to understand why the bridge was destroyed unless it be that Craig feared an attack from the Militia of the adjoining counties. This was the main crossing into the northern part of New Hanover and Duplin, and continual vigilance was kept at this post by the opposing forces. The Militia of New Hanover, Bladen and Duplin, consisting of about seven hundred men, took position here to prevent incursions into the country. Temporary

(1) Colonial Records, vol. XV, p. 490.

fortifications were made and after some skirmishing across the river Craig's men returned to Wilmington, and the

Militia under command of Gen. Alexander Lillington continued to hold the post until the army of Cornwallis entered Wilmington in April, 1781. Realizing the impossibility of holding the place longer, Gen. Lillington ordered a hasty retreat to Kinston, where he disbanded the Militia, except one company, on the 28th of April, 1781, at which time Cornwallis had proceeded to the center of Duplin, where he was carrying consternation to the hearts of the people. Checkmated and outgeneraled by Greene in his marvelous retreat through the State, Cornwallis was wreaking vengeance on the inhabitants and was leaving behind him desolation and ruin. He left Craig still in charge at Wilmington for the purpose of rallying the Tories and keeping the Whigs subdued in the surrounding country, and there did not remain a semblance of an American army in North Carolina. However, Craig's repeated expeditions into New Hanover, Duplin and Onslow made it necessary to reorganize the Militia, and four hundred men were collected in Duplin under Col. Kenan, and quite a number in Bladen under Col. Brown.

After the departure of Cornwallis, Craig's forces first proceeded toward New Berne with the purpose of subduing all the country east of the North East River, and on June 28th, 1781, Gen. Lillington sent a dispatch from Richlands, Onslow County, to Major Abraham Molton in Duplin, informing him that the British with about eight hundred Tories and regulars were advancing from Rutherfords Mill (1) towards

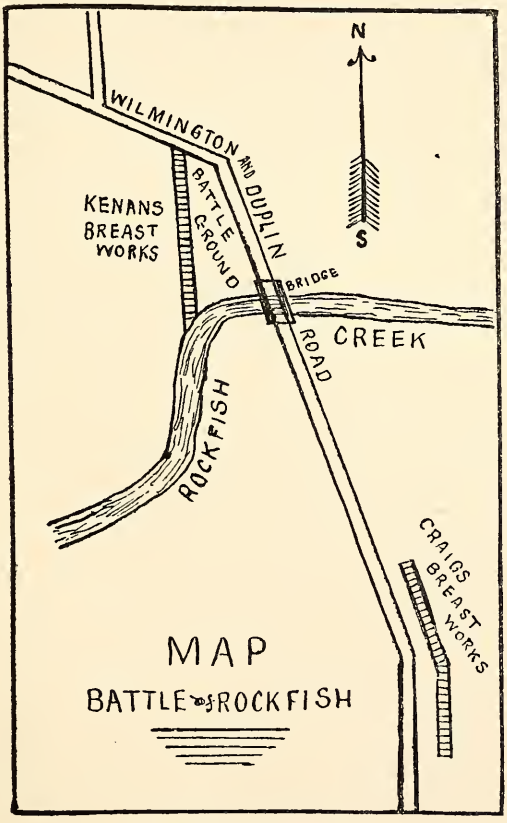
(1) Rutherford's Mill was east of the Northeast River, between Wilmington and Richlands.

Richlands, and instructing him to muster all the forces he could without delay (1). Molton immediately informed Gov. Burke of the situation and proceeded to raise a levy of troops in Duplin. It seems that Col. Kenan was otherwise engaged at this time, probably guarding the crossing at Rockfish Creek. On July 6th, Col. Kenan wrote Gov. Burke that one hundred Duplin men had marched to join Gen. Lillington at Richlands Chapel and fifty others were ready to go. Again on July 9th, he wrote the Governor that the enemy, which was moving toward Richlands, had returned to Rutherford's Mill, and that he had ordered a draft of two hundred men to be made from Duplin immediately, but that he had no powder nor lead—*not one round*—and urged the Governor to supply them with ammunition, as they could not take the field until supplied. And again on July 15th, he wrote the Governor that the enemy had moved out of Wilmington and were rebuilding the "long bridge"; that it was their intention to give no more paroles, but would sell every man's property who would not join them; that they had one hundred light horse, well equipped, and four hundred and seventy foot; and that he was informed that they were determined to be at Duplin County House the next Monday. (2) He further stated that they had no ammunition and could get none, and renewed his request to be supplied. On July 24th, Gen. Alexander Lillington wrote the Governor that a part of Caswell's army had reached Rockfish, in Duplin County, which was then held by Col. Kenan, and that Col. Kenan had informed him by letter that he had no ammunition. (3) It is apparent from all these communications that Kenan, Caswell and Lillington regarded the situation as serious, and thought

(1) Colonial Records, vol. XV, pp. 496 and 499.
(2) Colonial Records, vol. XV, p. 535.
(3) Colonial Records, vol. XV, p. 567.

ROCKFISH CREEK BRIDGE.

it very important that Craig's army should be checked in its march through the State. The importance of this resistance is readily seen when we consider the fact that Cornwallis had traversed the State and had just passed into Virginia without serious damage to his own army; for, while he had won no decisive victory, yet he had, in effect, subdued the State



THE BATTLE GROUND.

and had left it with no organized army; and Craig's expeditions were intended to give courage to the Tories, who were ready to support the enemy at any time.

Rockfish Creek, now the dividing line between Duplin and Pender Counties, was then the boundary between Duplin and New Hanover. The old Duplin road leading from Wilmington, along which Cornwallis had marched, crossed the creek about a half mile east of the Wilmington and Weldon Rail Road, and passed a few yards west of where the present county bridge now stands. This was the most convenient place for an army to make its passage, but it was hoped, and without much reason, that the Militia would be able to entrap the British here and win a signal victory, and likely such would have been the result had our troops been supplied with ammunition. Col. Kenan, who was chief in command at this time, and who had planned the attack, fortified himself on Rockfish Creek, at the crossing above described, by throwing up dirt-works just north of the ford, slight traces of which can now be seen, and waited the approach of the enemy. The fortifications were well planned so as to give the Militia every possible advantage as the enemy was crossing the creek, for their only hope was to make an attack while a crossing was being attempted. Craig had light artillery, some cavalry and over four hundred footmen, all well equipped, and was more than prepared to resist any force that the Whigs could put in the field. On the 2d of August, 1781, he attempted to cross the creek and was vigorously attacked by the brave Militiamen under Col. Kenan, though without ammunition sufficient to even give hope of success. Craig used his entire force, including his artillery, and the inevitable result was the defeat of our troops, outnumbered and unequipped as they were. There is now in existence an old cannon ball, about three inches in diameter, which was left at the place of battle by the British army; and while it is insignificant as compared with modern instruments of warfare, yet it was much superior to anything used by the Duplin Militia.

The accounts of this battle have only been preserved by

two eye-witnesses, and these are not as complete as we would like to have them; however, they throw some light on the matter, and without them we would have nothing reliable.

Col. Kenan on the same day wrote the Governor as follows:(1)

DUPLIN, August 2d, 1781.

SIR:—I imbodied all the Militia I Could in this County to the Amount of about 150 men and was reinforced by Gen'l Caswell with about 180 and took post at a place Called rockfish. The British this day Came against me and the Militia again after a few rounds Broak and it was out of my power and all my Officers to rally them. They have all Dispersed. Before the men Broak we lost none, But the light horse pursued and I am afraid have taken 20 or 30 men. I Cannot Give You a full acct., but the Bearer, Capt. James, who was in the Action, Can inform your Excellency of any Particular. He acted with Becoming Bravery during the whole action. I am now Convinced this County with Several others will be Overrun by the British and Tories. Your Excellency will Excuse as I cannot Give a more full accot.

I am Sir Your very humbl St.

On the 30th of November, 1784, William Dickson, who participated in the fight, wrote a letter to his cousin in Ireland, which contained the following reference to the battle:

"Col. Kenan's Militia had not made a stand more than ten days when Maj. Craig marched his main force, with field pieces, defeated and drove us out of our works, and made some of our men prisoners (here I narrowly escaped being taken or cut down by the dragoons). The enemy stayed several days in Duplin County (this being the first week in August, 1781). The Royalists gathered together very fast, and we were now reduced again to the uttermost extremity.

(1) Colonial Records, vol. XV, p. 593.

The enemy were now more cruel to the distressed inhabitants than Cornwallis' army had been before. Some men collected and formed a little flying camp and moved near the enemy's lines and made frequent sallies on their rear flanks, while others fled from their homes and kept out of the enemy's reach. Maj. Craig marched from Duplin to Newbern, plundered the town, destroyed the public stores, and then immediately marched back to Wilmington to secure the garrison."(1)

The battle of Rockfish is not one of the important battles of the Revolution, and its result, whatever it might have been, could in no way have affected the ultimate issue of the war. However, it throws some light on the history of the times and shows us what the brave home guard of the Revolution had to contend with, and how important a part of the great army it was. Without the "Militia," life would have been intolerable in Duplin during the great struggle, and Toryism would have deterred the people from giving support and aid to the far-away soldier, who was doing battle for our freedom. After the defeat of the "Duplin Militia" at Rockfish, Craig laid his cruel hand upon the inhabitants of Duplin, robbed them of their property, and inflicted upon them every indignity and outrage known to merciless warfare.

NOTE.—Sir James Henry Craig was born in Gibralter in the year 1749. He entered the English Army at the age of fourteen and was well trained in the art of soldiery. He came to America in the year 1774 and was in service here from the battle of Bunker Hill until the evacuation of Charleston in 1781. He was thirty-two years of age when he took possession of Wilmington and began his work of devastation in the surrounding counties. In 1807 he was made Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of Canada. He was a soldier of fair ability, but as a civil officer was a petty tyrant and oppressor. His administration as Governor of Canada was a failure, and he returned to England in 1811, where he died the following year.

(1) Dickson Letters, p. 17.

GOVERNOR JESSE FRANKLIN.

BY J. T. ALDERMAN.

The name Franklin suggests an ancestry worthy of noble sons. The name may have come down from an illustrious family of Norman nobles which established itself in Britain after the Norman Conquest. It may have originated from an expression signifying "free-man." We leave a discussion of this to the antiquarian and the philologist.

True nobility will assert itself even among the hills and forests of frontier life. When home and country call for men to face the oppressor and break away the tyrant's yoke, noble spirits and brave hearts lead the way. He who valiantly wields his sword in a cause that is just, yielding to neither difficulties nor discouragements, reveals a spirit that is noble born.

It was during the dark period of the Revolution, when home and liberty were in jeopardy from foreign foe and internecine strife that Jesse Franklin appeared in the full strength of young manhood. He was born on March 24th, 1760. His parents were Bernard and Mary Franklin, who at the beginning of the Revolutionary war lived in Orange County, Virginia. He was the third of seven sons. Owing to the turbulence of the times his educational opportunities were very limited. He, however, acquired the rudiments of a practical education.

When he was about seventeen years old, during the year 1777, he volunteered in the Continental service and held a lieutenant's commission in Washington's army. It is not known how long he remained with the army or where his service took him. When his term of enlistment had expired he returned to his father's home.

Attracted by the excellent range and fertile valleys of Piedmont North Carolina, a large number of good people had, before the Revolution, left their Virginia homes and moved to occupy the unbroken forests. Among them was Col. Benjamin Cleveland, a brother of Jesse Franklin's mother. Before the breaking out of the Revolution, Bernard Franklin had determined to go to North Carolina, as so many of his neighbors and friends had done. In the summer of 1778 he sent Jesse, who was then at home from the army, to select lands suitable for the settlement and to erect buildings for the accommodation of the family when they should arrive in the fall. The fact that the father trusted such responsibilities to his eighteen-year-old son is an earnest of the confidence he placed in him. The young shoulders which were destined to bear in after years the burdens of state and nation were thus early put in training by duties and cares in sharing the responsibilities of his father's family. His father was not disappointed. Jesse selected for their future home a beautiful valley near the head-waters of Mitchell's River, and provided for the coming of the family. The two older brothers, Bernard and Jeremiah, remained in Virginia. In the fall of 1778 Jesse's parents, with four sons and two daughters, the oldest of the children being under fifteen years of age, moved to their new home in Surry County, North Carolina. This homestead was to become the seat of patriotism and honor, culture and refinement.

The American people were not united in the desire for separation from the mother country. The division of sentiment was sharp and in many communities was a source of extreme bitterness and strife. Loyalists and Tories were found in all the colonies. Virginia, Maryland, and New England were perhaps less infested than any other sections of the continent. John Adams said: "New York, Pennsyl-

vania, and North Carolina were about evenly divided between Whig and Tory sentiment; in South Carolina there were more Tories than Whigs, and Georgia virtually swung back at one time to the crown as a royal province." As to the number of Tories in the Carolinas, the estimate of Mr. Adams is no doubt too large.

While all who were opposed to the American cause were classed as Tories, there was a difference between the Loyalist and the characteristic Tory. Many of those who adhered to the crown were people of excellent character and most valuable citizens—men who were above the piratical practices of the ordinary Tory. Many of the Scotch Highlanders in the Cape Fear section were Loyalists, but were men of high moral worth. They had but recently, after the battle of Culloden, sworn allegiance to the crown and were unwilling to violate that oath. There were other notable exceptions. But what excuse can be made for the predatory bands of plundering Tories roving the country, burning houses, murdering the best men in the communities, and creating consternation and misery among helpless women and children! They destroyed the growing crops of defenseless citizens and appropriated to their own use the farm supplies and whatever valuables could be found in the dwellings.

They were mainly irresponsible men, in whose breasts there existed no thrill of patriotism, whose only ambition was to gratify some personal grudge, and to satisfy their necessities by plundering and robbing. Their heredity has come down through the decades of our national history. When our southland was in arms for the defense of home and liberty, the sons of these men were "bush-whackers" and deserters. They now run illicit distilleries and debauch their communities; they object to civic and educational advancement. Tap their veins and you find Tory blood. During

the war the Tories in some sections became so aggressive and bold in their depradations that the Whig families were forced to build forts for protection. One of these was near the present town of Mocksville;[1] another was near Wilkesboro.

Fortunately there were men in most sections of the State whose names struck terror to the hearts of the Tories. Among them was Col. Benjamin Cleveland. As a partisan leader he had but few equals. He knew no fear and seemed ubiquitous to friend and foe. Colonel Cleveland's services in checking organized Toryism in that part of the State have never been fully recognized.

When about eighteen years of age Jesse Franklin joined his uncle's forces and for two years assisted in maintaining order in Piedmont North Carolina. He served with him in many skirmishes with the Tories and gained the confidence of his uncle as a bold and fearless patriot.

At the close of the summer of 1780, the British had overrun the whole of South Carolina. Cornwallis had for months been arranging to invade North Carolina and take vengeance upon the men of Mecklenburg and other Whigs of the State. He sent Major Ferguson with a large body of British troops to overawe the Whigs and enroll the Tories in the western counties. The appearance of the British among the hills of North Carolina had an unexpected effect. Those dauntless patriots who knew no fear rallied to the standard of Liberty with a determination which had never seized them before. Led by the brave Colonels Shelby, Sevier, Campbell, and General McDowell, they rushed down the mountain

[1] Some of the timbers of which this fort was constructed were moved to Mocksville about forty years ago by Col. A. M. Booe and used by him in building a tobacco factory, which is still standing. Colonel Booe ornamented this factory with a brass weather vane brought from Heidleburg by some German Lutherans who settled on the banks of Dutchman's Creek and placed it upon a church, which they built in 1765.

like a torrent maddened by the opposing elements. They were joined by the men from Surry and Wilkes under the intrepid Colonel Cleveland, with Jesse Franklin as his aid. Nowhere in Revolutionary times could be found a more heroic band. With incredible swiftness this little army of militia and volunteers rushed over creeks and rivers, ridges and forests, covering a distance of about seventy miles in twenty-four hours. Halting for a council of war, they selected nine hundred of the best equipped men and rushed forward to meet the foe. Ferguson had selected the top of the ridge known as King's Mountain for the encounter, from which, he said, "God Himself could not drive him." The patriots surrounded the mountain before Ferguson was aware of their presence and attacked him from all sides at once. As the British and Tories charged from one side of the mountain the American lines wavered, only to rush forward with redoubled fury. The British were hurled back, only to be met by the rifles and shouts of the men on the opposite side of the hill. A cloud of smoke encompassed the mountain shutting off the British army from sight. Jesse Franklin rode forward through the smoke, and finding the British in confusion and shooting above the heads of the Patriots, he called to his men to charge, assuring them of victory. They advanced till within range and fired. Colonel Ferguson fell and confusion overwhelmed the enemy. Captain Depeyster, the ranking officer, assumed command but was unable to restore order. Captain Ryarson's efforts were alike futile. He surrendered, and handed his sword to Jesse Franklin, saying to him: "Take it, you deserve it, sir." [2] The sword was in the Franklin family many years, but a party of gentlemen

[2] Accounts of the battle of King's Mountain vary. This sketch follows the statement of Judge J. F. Graves, who received it from John Boyd, a soldier of the Revolution, and an eye-witness to this incident.

on one occasion, in testing the temper of the mettle, broke it into fragments. The hilt was in possession of Mr. Ambrose Johnson, of Wilkes County, in 1854.

The victory at King's Mountain was complete. Nine hundred inexperienced militia had vanquished a superior force of regular British and Tory troops, consisting of 1125 men. With the loss of twenty-eight killed and sixty wounded, they had killed, wounded, or captured the entire British force. The effect was electrical. The Tory spirit was crushed, and hope stirred the hearts of the patriots. The prisoners were hurried to a place of safety. Cornwallis immediately left Charlotte and retired to his protected camps in South Carolina.

A record of the many daring adventures and marvelous escapes of Jesse Franklin during those years of ceaseless vigilance would make a thrilling narrative. A few only have been rescued from oblivion. The plundering Tories feared him and trembled for their lives when it was known that Franklin was in the community. They well knew that swift vengeance would be dealt to those guilty of murder and that all if taken would be punished according to their crimes. They determined to destroy him, but they realized that he was more than a match for them in any bold movement on their part. Bands were often in hiding along the approaches to his father's house. One evening he was attempting to reach his home by a circuitous route when suddenly he was surrounded by a strong band of Tories. Resistance in the face of a dozen rifles was futile. They tied his hands behind his back, and using his bridle as a halter, they made ready to hang him to an overhanging limb. When all was ready they commanded him to take the oath of allegiance. He refused and they swung him up. One of the men struck the horse to make him move from under Franklin;

just as he did so the halter broke and Franklin fell into his saddle as the horse dashed away. The rifle balls whizzed by his head. His escape was miraculous and Franklin in after life often referred to it as an intervention of a Kind Providence.

Three months after the battle of King's Mountain, Morgan gained another glorious victory over the British at the Cowpens. Cornwallis was stung by his defeat and the loss of so large a part of his army and hastened to carry the war into North Carolina. General Morgan knew that Cornwallis would endeavor to recapture the prisoners and immediately hurried them off toward Virginia. Thus began the race of Cornwallis and the Americans across the state of North Carolina. General Green joined Morgan near Salisbury and assumed command of the army. The details of this retreat across the State are facts common in all our histories.

Cornwallis reluctantly gave up the chase of Greene and turned aside to Hillsboro. Greene, having received reinforcements from Virginia and some militia from the eastern portion of North Carolina, recrossed the Dan River, thus showing a determination to meet the British in battle. Cornwallis said that he was greatly disappointed at the failure of the Tories in not rallying to the British standard and enlisting as soldiers in his army. The most of the Tories who did attempt to reach him were cut off and destroyed by scouting parties of Whigs sent out by General Greene to intercept their movements. The most notable of these encounters was perhaps the destruction of Colonel Pyle and his band of Tories near the present town of Graham. Cornwallis immediately moved west across the Haw River to succor those who should come.

Greene sent William Washington, Lee, and Williams to intercept the marauding parties of British and Tories. Capt.

Jesse Franklin was at the head of one of these skirmish lines near Hillsboro on February 25th.

General Greene was near the state line about 25 miles north of Hillsboro and began a westerly movement toward the little town of Martinsville, then the county seat of Guilford, which he had before selected as a suitable ground for the inevitable battle. He arranged his forces with skill and awaited the approach of the enemy. Cornwallis accepted the challenge and on the evening of March 15th the battle took place. Greene withdrew and Cornwallis held the ground, but his doubtful victory was the final undoing of the British in North Carolina.

In this battle Jesse Franklin was a conspicuous actor. He led a band of mountaineers who did good service, and was among the last to leave the grounds when General Greene ordered a retreat. The horses of his men had been tied in the woods and as they were mounting to retire some British cavalrymen killed a part of his men before they could mount and get away. Franklin escaped, but soon returned and secured the horse and arms of one of his neighbors, a Mr. Taliafero, and carried them to the family of his friend. Cornwallis retreated to Wilmington and soon left the State, to be captured at Yorktown. Greene was now on the aggressive, but gave up the pursuit and went to South Carolina.

While history has not been lavish in recounting the movements of Jesse Franklin, enough has been recorded to give us an idea of the military career of the youthful hero. Franklin was at this time under 21 years of age. America had gained its independence.

Hostilities had ceased, but the relationship of the former Whig and Tory elements were extremely trying in many sections. Bitter animosities and recollections rendered almost impossible the return of friendly intercourse. Tories

had committed outrages and murder. The Whigs had found it necessary to retaliate in order to check their unbridled ravages. Some sections had been almost depopulated; in others a spirit of lawlessness was prevalent. It was a task perhaps greater than the Revolution itself to bring order out of chaos and construct a nation, and people grew restless under suspense and delay. The Whigs had been under a supreme tension from the beginning of the war, and when that tension was removed it was natural for a reaction to follow. Lethargy and untimely contentment might lose for them the vantage ground which had been secured at so dear a price. Schools and churches were in many places still closed and the moral senses seemed blunted. Under such conditions as these there was need of the best and most patriotic men to guide in public affairs. The experienced and wary, like Caswell; the vigorous and hopeful, like Franklin, were immediately summoned to the councils of the legislative halls.

After the close of the war, Jesse Franklin settled in Wilkes County. In 1784, at the age of 24, he was elected to the Legislature from Wilkes County, and, with the exception of 1788, he was re-elected successively every year until 1793, when he changed his place of residence to Surry County. The people of Surry knowing his value as a public citizen immediately elected him to the Legislature for the year 1793, and returned him in 1794. In 1795 he was elected member of Congress and served two years. In 1797 and 1798 we again find him in the Legislature. The Legislature of 1799 elected him United States Senator for the full term ending in 1805. In 1806 and 1807 he was a member of the State Senate and was, at the close of his term, again elected United States Senator for the term to expire in 1813.

As a legislator Jesse Franklin was universally trusted.

Although he was one of the youngest of the members of the Legislature, he was placed at the head of important committees. He made but few speeches; these were mainly short, pointed and forceful. In February, 1795, one Jeremiah Early petitioned the Legislature for a premium or bounty to help and protect him in the manufacture of steel. Franklin was chairman of a committee appointed to investigate the merits of the petition and made the following report: "After due consideration it is our opinion that it is not expedient for the State to grant premiums or bounties for the manufacture of steel, being well assured that any person manufacturing that article will be amply compensated by the sale thereof."

As early as 1785 we find Franklin publicly advocating more opportunities for educating the people. He was a close student and acquired a broad fund of general information. He married Miss Meeky Perkins, of Rockbridge County, Virginia. The date of his marriage has not come to the writer, but it was some time before 1790, as collateral circumstances indicate. His home life was beautiful and inspiring, shedding a wholesome influence for culture and refinement in the circle of his friends and associates.

In 1784 he received grants of land in Wilkes County. The Federal census of 1790 shows that he was then a citizen of Wilkes County. As has been stated, he moved to Surry County in 1793.

Franklin was a Democrat in his feelings and mode of life. He was one of the people and on all occasions manifested his devotion to them in whatever might appeal to their sensibilities or prejudices.

While the Legislature was in session in Hillsboro he was in need of some shirts. The seamstress had made them with ruffles, according to the fashion of the times. "When

he came to put them on, he thought the frills did not become the representative of so plain a people as his constituents, and so he cut them all off with his pen knife before wearing the shirts."

In personal appearance Franklin was erect and commanding, somewhat above medium height, and, in his latter years, weighed over two hundred pounds. He was a man of strong personality, of few words, of unusual discretion and sound judgment. He was easily provoked to deeds of charity and unselfish service to those less fortunate than himself. His sympathy for the distressed widow and orphan was easily touched; even in his younger years his strong, manly courage brought comfort and hope to those in distress around him. Moore, the historian, says of him: "Jesse Franklin, like Nathaniel Macon, was dear to the people because he typified their best qualities. He did not shine in debate like Davie, or out-wit his competitors like Alexander Martin, but he was strong in the simplicity and directness of his character. He loved truth, peace and justice, and they shone in his life and made him a beacon and an assurance to all who knew him." His uniform and well recognized integrity, the soundness of his judgment on the great questions which so deeply agitated the public mind, his purity of life and exalted patriotism made him a trusted leader of men.

In 1795, when Jesse Franklin was elected to the National Congress, the young Republic was feeling its way toward a safe adjustment of internal organizations and at the same time striving to avoid external complications until it should realize a firm place in the hearts and confidence of the American people and gain respectability among the great family of nations. It had so recently set up business for itself that there was much and most important legislation to be made. Consequent upon the devastations of a long war,

there was a spirit of unrest in every quarter. Families were breaking up and moving to the western frontiers; resistance to taxation embarrassed the local authorities, and there were those who seemed to prefer the flesh-pots of their former conditions to the uncertain experiment as an independent nation. Sections were jealous of supposed encroachments upon their local interests. New England was ready at the slightest provocation to withdraw from the Union. The South was guarding suspiciously against any attempt to meddle in her affairs. Many of those who had been Loyalists and Tories, having lost their standing in their communities, were forced to seek other places to make their homes; some went to the West Indies, some to the British possessions, but the greater number went west and settled among the mountains of East Tennessee and Kentucky, where generations later their descendants arrayed themselves against the armies of the South. Many of the brave Continental soldiers received the pay for their long services in grants of land beyond the Ohio, and the states were poorer by the loss of these brave men. State and national debts were hanging ominous over the treasuries, for the magic hand of Hamilton had not yet given stability to the country's finances, converting a national debt into a national blessing.

Internal traffic was hampered for want of an acceptable circulating medium. Commerce on the high seas was at the mercy of the piratical practices of every nation. The same conditions which existed in North Carolina prevailed throughout the country. French customs and vices had permeated the social and moral fabric. French skepticism, reenforced by Tom Payne's "Age of Reason," was undermining the church and the sanctity of religion. Harvard, William and Mary, Princeton, and Yale colleges were sending out a limited number of scholars, but for two decades and more

the halls of learning had been almost deserted. There were no public schools, and the parochial and private schools had been forgotten in the common struggle for material existence. Conditions afforded but little time for social intercourse or intellectual development except among the more favored few. The masses were illiterate and appeared satisfied to remain so. There were but few newspapers or publications of any kind. There were but few who aspired to become authors. Books were rare. It was a period of relaxation and intellectual depression. North Carolina was the first to break the spell and establish a State University; others followed.

Jesse Franklin was a product of the times, but like others who were born to co-operate in shaping the destinies of the nation his horizon was broad, his conception of a government for the masses was clear and his good judgment gave him power in the State and national assemblies. His astute statesmanship won the admiration of his peers. For thirty consecutive years he represented his people and was a conspicuous figure in the State and national capitals.

It has been the custom of the historian to pass rapidly over this period. The records were meager and many of them are not accessible to the reading public. In our times it is difficult to discover what questions were of paramount interest to the men who served in the National Congress or how they disposed of them. There were great problems with which our representatives must grapple. England and France had continuously shown indignities to the American flag. It was a matter of great concern to protect our merchant marine; foreign emissaries were endeavoring to engender strife among the states and weaken the national unity. It required the patriotism and statesmanship of great men to save the young nation from universal disaster. Jefferson and Adams and their adherents were alike patriotic; they had staked all for

American institutions. Adams was a devout Federalist and espoused the policy of a strong centralized government. Jesse Franklin, like Jefferson, the great leader of popular rights, was as thoroughly convinced that the ideal form of government was that in which all national authority should originate with the people who were to be governed, and that those in authority were amenable directly to the people. While in Congress he served on a large number of important committees.

During his first term as United States Senator, Congress held its last session in the Quaker City. In 1800 the public offices and records were transferred from Philadelphia to the new Federal capital on the Potomac.

In 1801 Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr received the same number of votes for president. In accord with the provision of the constitution, it devolved upon the Lower House of Congress to name the President. Jefferson was chosen and Burr became Vice-President. In 1805 Jefferson was re-elected President, with George Clinton as Vice-President. Burr allowed the sting of defeat to lead him astray. He entered into schemes for dismembering the western settlements and organizing a new republic. The story of his trial in Richmond is an old one. In 1807 John Smith, an accomplice of Burr in his adventure, was Senator from the state of Ohio. Jesse Franklin had been appointed chairman of a committee to investigate the matter, and on November 13, 1807, made the following report: "It is the opinion of the committee that it is not compatible with the dignity of the Senate of the United States for John Smith to occupy a seat in the Senate." The trial before the Senate was a long and memorable one. The greatest orators of the times were engaged on one side or the other. The speeches were reported in full and are models of eloquence and power. Smith

was acquitted by one vote, but Franklin's masterly management of the trial had convinced the public that Smith was guilty. Smith immediately resigned and left Washington.

Another important historic fact is brought out by the services of Franklin. After the Declaration of Independence the Articles of Confederation were adopted as the supreme law of the land and were in force till the adoption of the Federal Constitution in 1789. The old Congress under the Articles of Confederation was in session on July 11, 1787, in New York, and adopted a form of government for the territory north and west of the Ohio River. The sixth article of this ordinance provided for the exclusion of slavery and involuntary servitude except as punishment for crime. At the same time this Congress was in session a great convention was in session in Philadelphia framing the Constitution which soon superseded the "Articles of Confederation." The ordinance of the Congress of 1787 was disregarded by the Constitution. In 1805 a number of exiled Cubans desired to settle with their slaves in the rich plains north of the Ohio. A conflict was about to arise and the Congress at Washington appointed a committee to report on the matter. Franklin as chairman of the committee reported: "Resolved, That it is not expedient at this time to suspend the sixth Article of the Ordinance of 1787 for the government of the said territory."

Franklin was a strong advocate of the war of 1812 and urged Congress to grant permission to individuals to fit out vessels for privateering and destroying British commerce.

It is an interesting coincidence that while Jesse Franklin was presiding as president pro tempore in the Senate, Nathaniel Macon was Speaker of the House of Representatives. It was a red-letter day for North Carolina.

These references will serve to show the confidence the nation placed in Jesse Franklin during his term of service at the national capital.

He declined a re-election to the Senate in 1813 and retired to his home. In 1816 President Monroe appointed Franklin, Andrew Jackson and General Meriwether commissioners to treat with the Chickasaw Indians. The treaty was made near the bluffs of the Mississippi where the city of Memphis now stands.

In 1820 he was elected governor of North Carolina. After serving one term he declined a re-election. His message to the Legislature is dated November 20, 1821. It is still preserved in the files of the old Raleigh Register. It shows that he was a strong writer and a statesman of no ordinary powers.

He calls attention to the necessity of reforming the State court system; more efficiency in the militia. He says: "All nations have military force of some kind; the militia is the one preferred by our State. It behooves us then to encourage its efficiency and make it strong in order to render a standing army unneccessary; for precisely in the same degree that the one is neglected you create the necessity for the other." He encourages internal improvements. He mentions the surveying of the lines between North Carolina and Georgia; also the line between North Carolina and Tennessee, and a number of other matters for the consideration of the Legislature.

When his term of office was out he again returned to the quiet of his beautiful mountain section. He was not permitted to enjoy the pleasures of his home long, for death came to him September 29, 1823.

The following letter from Miss Isabel Graves, a great grand-daughter of Governor Franklin, will be found full of interest, and is inserted by her permission:

Nov. 28, 1906.

DEAR SIR:—I cannot add much to the sketch written by my father for Caruthers' Old North State Series. Governor Franklin would not have any portrait made of himself. He said he preferred to be remembered by what he had done and not by how he looked.

In looking over the old records I find that Meeky Perkins was born in 1765, and died February 20, 1834. I have not been able to find the date of her marriage to Jesse Franklin, but from other dates given it was probably sometime before 1790. He had been prominent as a brave soldier during the Revolution, and it is quite probable that he was sent on missions of importance to Philadelphia before the adoption of the Constitution in 1789.

Notwithstanding Jesse Franklin was a Democrat and took great pride in the wearing apparel made at home, his daughters indulged in silk dresses made in Philadelphia on occasions requiring such dress. One of these dresses is preserved in the family.

Governor Franklin, while not a member, was inclined to the Baptist church. His wife was a member of the Methodist church. He did not care for hunting and other sports, but was a great student and reader, and his leisure from public duties and private business was devoted chiefly to reading. His correspondence was extensive for that time, and one of his daughters usually assisted as his secretary.

He was noted for his kindness to his neighbors and consideration for people less fortunate than he. He restrained his children from jokes at the expense of other people's feelings. The story of "Dicky Snow of Fish River Scenes" he never allowed a member of his family to tell, and it only became known when Dicky Snow told it on himself.

My father used to tell us stories of his grandparents which always interested us. He said that Hardin Perkins was a well-connected and influential farmer of Rockbridge County, Virginia. Jesse Franklin in passing to and from Philadelphia on horseback with his wardrobe in his saddle-bags, happened to stop over at Mr. Perkins' and saw the daughter, Miss Meeky, a tall, graceful, black-haired and black-eyed maid, very handsome and accomplished for that period. He fell in love with her, and after the usual courtship, married her. There were very limited modes of conveyance then, indeed much of the country did not have even so much as a wagon road. After the marriage, which was celebrated with a wedding feast, a Presbyterian minister officiating, Jesse Franklin and his bride rode on horseback by way of Lynchburg to his home in North Carolina. On the way they were given receptions at the residences of several of the relatives of the bride, the Redds and the Pannills, and the uncle of the groom. The baggage came later in a sort of two-horse wagon.

Mrs. Franklin was occasionally in Washington with her husband, but not often. The journey from her mountain home to Washington was a long and tiresome one, the meager pay of the members of Congress, at that time not more than five dollars per day, would not well support two

in good style. She became a noted housekeeper. Her home-made cotton dresses for herself and daughters were always of the neatest make and finest shades of coloring. The home-made jeans and linsey were the best, her linen the finest and whitest made in the country from flax grown on the farm and spun with her own hand. My father had often seen his grandmother's old flax-wheel at the homestead of his Uncle Hardin Franklin on Fish River, where she died. She was a most elegant hostess and entertained her friends and her husband's friends in the best style possible. She had several daughters and sons, and they had much company.

Governor Franklin lived in an isolated neighborhood; about four families made up the community—Jesse Franklin, Micajah Oglesby, Meshack Franklin, and Mr. Edwards, and they were all intelligent and well to do. They kept up the most cordial social relations; they visited and had parties and dances, to which their friends from a distance were invited. From all the concurrent traditions there was never anywhere a happier community during the lifetime of Governor Frank lin. His wife was the leader and chief spirit among the ladies.

There are other traditions, but these will serve to give a picture of the times.

Yours truly,

ISABEL GRAVES.

Gov. Jesse Franklin was Surry County's greatest son. He reflected honor upon the whole State. It has not been the purpose of the writer to idealize him, but it is right that the noble heroes who risked their lives for American liberty, and whose long period of public service did so much to establish our national greatness, should have a proper setting in the records of the nation. It is a distinct loss to the State that so little is known of those men who so greatly honored our State in the early period of its history.

The remains of Governor Franklin have recently been removed to the National Park at the Guilford Battle Ground. This is right. To a great extent the lives of those great and strong men constitute our State's history. They served well the State and we should accord to their memory that honorable fame they so richly deserve.

NOTE.—The following authorities have been consulted:

Wheeler's History of North Carolina;
Wheeler's Reminiscences;
Caruthers' Old North State Series;
Lossing's Field Book of the Revolution;
King's Mountain and Its Heroes;
Judge Schenck's Guilford Battle Ground;
Moore's History of North Carolina;
Constitution and Rules of United States Senate;
Journals of U. S. House and Senate;
Journals of Legislature of North Carolina;
Files of *Raleigh Register;*
Colonial Records of North Carolina.

NORTH CAROLINA'S HISTORICAL EXHIBIT AT JAMESTOWN EXPOSITION.

The Jamestown Exposition in 1907 is to be pre-eminently an historical exposition. All the states, and especially the original thirteen, are concentrating their energies on a display that will show to the world what share each has had in the settlement and development of the country, and later in that momentous struggle with England which transformed weak colonies into a great nation. That each claims the lion's share in that transformation, goes without saying. What is of more consequence, each state is planning to prove its faith by its works, and prove its works by its exhibit at Jamestown. Pennsylvania has already spent thousands of dollars, and will spend thousands more; Virginia says that she can't compete with North Carolina, either agriculturally or in manufactures, but in her historical collection she will lead the country. So the story goes, with but one exception—"the good old North State, heaven's blessings attend her," and she is sitting down peacefully with her knitting, wondering plaintively why other states know so little of her past and that little to her discredit. For the first time in her existence an opportunity has come to her to set right once and for all time the mistakes and sneers of ignorance. Her state pride as well as "a decent regard to the opinions of mankind," should make her send such a display that her brave, faithful, modest past, shall be the glory of her future, and that hereafter men shall not come to North Carolina to teach, but to learn. The Daughters of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the Revolution are making an effort to gather together a great historic exhibit, but it is not for their organizations they are working; it is for their state, and they ask

all patriotic orders—the Colonial Dames, the Cincinnati, the Sons of the Revolution, all patriotic men and women—to join with them in this labor of love. They cannot do the work alone; they would be ashamed to do it if they could, for it would be an admission that patriotism was sleeping or dead. That they are leading in the matter is a mere happening, and they would be just as proud to follow, for they are North Carolinians first and Daughters afterwards.

The ladies ask the loan of anything that will illustrate the history of the State—and particularly the life of Colonial and Revolutionary days—letters, manuscripts, school books, furniture, portraits, clothing, maps, silver, china, etc. All articles will be sent to Raleigh and placed in the care of an experienced person, who will see to their packing and shipping; their arrangements is locked cases at Jamestown; be with them during the exposition and then repack them afterwards. They will, of course, while there be in a fireproof building. The amount allowed the ladies for getting up this exhibit is so small that they fear the success of their efforts will be hampered by the necessity for strict economy, but they will try to make the wisest possible expenditure of the funds at their disposal. Their plans are not yet fully matured. When they are, all details will be given in the State papers. The ladies in charge feel that an appeal to the patriotism of the State cannot be in vain.

MRS. LINDSAY PATTERSON,
Chairman Jamestown Historical Committee.

MISS MARY HILLIARD HINTON,
Chairman Committee for Eastern North Carolina.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF CONTRIBUTORS.

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

ROBERT DIGGS WIMBERLY CONNOR

Mr. R. D. W. Connor, whose address on the urgent need of a fire-proof state library building, delivered before the State Literary and Historical Association at its last session, and published in this number of "The Booklet," was born in the town of Wilson, September 26, 1878. He is the fourth child and the third son of Judge Henry G., and Kate Whitfield, Connor.

Mr. Connor was prepared for college in the public schools of his native town and entered the University of North Carolina in the fall of 1895. At the University he was a member of the Philanthropic Literary Society, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and The Gorgon's Head, a junior class organization. He was one of the representative speakers of his society at the commencement of 1898, and in 1899 was the winner of the debater's medal in his society. At the commencement of 1899 he was selected as one of the senior speakers. He was editor, and then editor-in-chief of *The Tar Heel*, the college weekly, editor and business manager of the *Hellenian*, the college annual, and editor of the *Magazine*. In his senior year he won the John Sprunt Hill History Prize, offered for the best original essay dealing with North Carolina history. His subject was a study of the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina. Mr. Connor was graduated in 1899.

After leaving the University Mr. Connor was elected a teacher in the Public High School of the city of Winston. In February, 1902, he resigned his work there to become super-

intendent of the Public Schools of Oxford, but remained there only a few months, resigning in the summer of 1902 to accept the principalship of the Public High School of the city of Wilmington. After two years' work there he accepted work in the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, where he has charge of the Loan Fund for building school houses, and is secretary of the Education Campaign Committee, composed of the late Dr. Charles D. McIver, Hon. J. Y. Joyner, Hon. Charles B. Aycock and Governor R. B. Glenn. He is also secretary of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly, and is now serving his second term.

When the General Assembly of 1903 created the North Carolina Historical Commission, Governor Aycock appointed Mr. Connor one of the commissioners. He was elected secretary of the Commission. He was reappointed by Governor Glenn in 1905. Mr. Connor has done a little work in the history of North Carolina. To *The Booklet* he has contributed a sketch of Cornelius Harnett; to the Biographical History of North Carolina he has contributed sketches of Cornelius Harnett, John Harvey, Calvin H. Wiley, James C. Dobbin, Thomas J. Hadley, Richard H. Speight and John F. Bruton. More elaborate sketches of Harnett and Harvey by Mr. Connor have appeared in the Sunday editions of the *Charlotte Observer*. Mr. Connor is a member of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association and of the Southern History Association.

On December 23, 1902, he was married to Miss Sadie Hanes, of Mocksville, N. C.

Mr. Connor is gifted with the energy to explore through the by-paths of our State's history and his researches, should he live to continue them, will prove of great value to future historians. North Carolina has a history to be proud of and

at the present time more general interest is being shown than in any former period. In the mass of authentic material that has been collected in the past twenty-five years, and especially in the last decade, and with the impetus that is being given to the youth of our state by the Captains of Education—by the strong, decisive stand taken by the Press—by the efforts of the Literary and Historical Society, the Sons of the Revolution, the Daughters of the Revolution and other like organizations, there is hope that a great historian will develop who will secure for North Carolina the place that rightfully belongs to her in the galaxy of States, showing that she had not lagged behind the other colonies in the assertion of her rights.

JAMES OWEN CARR.

J. O. Carr was born in Duplin County, North Carolina, near Kenansville. He was prepared for college by S. W. Clement at Wallace, N. C., and entered the University of North Carolina in September, 1891, graduating *cum laude* in the class of 1895 with the degree of Ph. B. In 1896 returned to the University where he studied law under the late Dr. John Manning and Judge James E. Shepherd. He received his license before the Supreme Court in September, 1896, and returned to his native county, Duplin, and began the practice of law at Kenansville. In 1898 he was elected as a member of the lower house of the General Assembly from Duplin County and served in this capacity in the Legislature of 1899. In the following April he moved to Wilmington, where he continued his practice as a member of the law firm of Rountree and Carr, which relation still exists. He has taken considerable interest in historical matters pertaining to the State. Inheriting the spirit of his forefathers, who were true to the principles of liberty, he is a descendant of

the Dicksons and Carrs who played a distinguished part before and during the Revolutionary war and one of whom was a signer to the Oath of Allegiance and Abjurgation passed at New Bern the 15th of November, 1777. The original document is now on file in the clerk's office of Duplin County, thus preserving the names of those patriots who were true to their country, their homes and their God. Mr. Carr is a writer of ability and thus early in his career has made an enviable reputation as a literateur. He is the author of the "Dickson" letters, consisting of a series of letters written immediately after the Revolution and of much historical value. He is a member of the Sons of the Revolution and his descent is contained in the manuscript archives of the North Carolina Society.

PROF. J. T. ALDERMAN.

The Booklet for this month is enriched by an admirable sketch of Governor Franklin. The paper is from the pen of Prof. J. T. Alderman, the able and successful superintendent of graded schools in Henderson, N. C. Writing of Professor Alderman and his work, Rev. J. D. Hufham, D.D., long a leading minister of the Baptist church, says: "Professor Alderman has devoted his life and all his splendid powers to the cause of education, mainly in North Carolina, and has no small share in the educational restoration of the commonwealth. Some particulars of his life and work seem to be called for as a contribution to the history of the period.

"The Aldermans, as their name indicates, are of Anglo-Saxon stock; of property and social standing in England. Members of the family were among the early settlers in this country. John Camden Hotten, of London, in his "original list of Persons of Qualitie emigrated to America," includes "Grace Alderman," who came "in the ship *Paula,* July,

1635." In 1715, Daniel Alderman, son of John, was born in London. In 1740 he married Abigail Harris and in 1750 removed to New Jersey, whither others of the Aldermans had preceded them. In 1755 Daniel and his wife came to North Carolina and settled on Black River in Pender County. Three sons, John, Daniel and David, were born to them. Of these sons, Daniel was the ancestor of the eminent head of the University of Virginia. From David have come the Aldermans of Greensboro. John married Mary Cashwell. They had among other children a son, John, who married Anna Newton, and among their children was Amariah Biggs, father of the subject of this sketch. He was a student at Wake Forest College 1845-'46-'47, and afterwards devoted his life to the Baptist ministry. He married Penelope Howard. Among her ancestors was Fleete Cooper, a prominent and active patriot during the Revolution and afterwards a preacher of renown among the Baptists. Another ancestor was Minson Howard, a soldier of the Revolution. Still another was Capt. John Williams, an officer in the American army during the Revolution; a fearless and active soldier and a terror to the Tories. These facts indicate with sufficient clearness the sort of people through whom the life has come down to Professor Alderman. In the old world and the new, they have been quiet, thoughtful, brave and earnest men, commanding the confidence of the public and achieving success. In North Carolina five of them have been preachers, many of them have been teachers and all of them advocates and supporters of education.

"Professor Alderman was born June 26th, 1853. His father's home lay in the line of Sherman's march, not far from the battlefield of Bentonville, and after that struggle the family had to begin life anew. To educate themselves without neglecting the labor needful to the home was not easy,

but the boys all achieved it. Professor Alderman graduated at Wake Forest College 1880, and at once gave himself with singleness of heart to the business of teaching, from which he has never turned aside. In his native county, Sampson, and in Davie County, he taught with singular success. He was superintendent of the schools at Reidsville, 1891-'94. He was assistant superintendent of city schools of Columbus, Ga., the finest system of schools in the South, and also principal of the high school in that city. In all these positions he had given entire satisfaction and had shown his capacity for even greater things. In 1899 the call came which brought him back to his native State and to the largest work of his life—to lay the foundations and construct a system of graded schools for the town of Henderson. It was a great undertaking, but success has crowned every step of it and it may be doubted whether there is in any part of the State a system of schools superior to this, whether we consider buildings and equipment, spirit or management. It is Professor Alderman's greatest work, but he is still in the fulness of manly vigor and there may be even greater things for him to do in the years to come. He is profoundly interested in the history of North Carolina, and the teaching of it holds an important place in his schools. He also keeps in touch with the work of education in the State. He is an enthusiastic Mason and is held in high honor by the members of the Fraternity of every degree.

"In 1894 he married Miss Lillian Watson, of Warrenton, N. C., a gifted and accomplished woman, who is interested in every department of his labor and finds her chief joy in his success."

SARAH BEAUMONT KENNEDY.

COLLECTED AND COMPILED BY MRS. E. E. MOFFITT.

The *Booklet* is indebted to Mrs. Kennedy for that very interesting monograph on "Colonial New Berne," which was published in No. 2 of volume first, which edition was so popular that it is now out of print. She wrote a beautiful story of that heroic and long-suffering people, the Palatinates,* who inhabited that picturesque portion of Germany situated on both sides of the Rhine. These Protestants who were no longer able to endure the persecutions which followed the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, fled from their country, a large proportion joining De Graffienried's colony of Swiss in 1710, to America, and founded New Berne; calling their new settlement after the Swiss capital in the far-away Alps.

Sara Beaumont Kennedy's parents were both North Carolinians, her father having been Dr. Robert H. Cannon, of Raleigh, and her mother Nora Devereux, daughter of Thomas Pollok Devereux, so widely known through the South. Through her maternal grandfather she is a direct descendant of Jonathan Edwards, whose daughter Eunice married Gov. Thomas Pollok, and was the grandmother of Thomas Pollok Devereux. (Gov. Thomas Pollok was twice appointed governor.) Through her maternal grandmother, who was Catherine Johnson, of Stratford, Conn., she is a lineal descendant of William Samuel Johnson, who, as one of the most talented and forceful members of the Constitutional Convention, helped to frame the National Constitution. On this same line Mrs. Kennedy is descended from the Living-

*A further account of this settlement is given in the "Booklet," of April, 1905, by Judge Oliver P. Allen.

stons, one member of which family was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and another played a star part in the purchase of Louisiana. The line goes back, without a break, to the Bruces, of Scotland. On her father's side Mrs. Kennedy inherits French Huguenot blood, an early ancestor of that faith and nationality having settled in North Carolina, where his three daughters married respectively a Hill, a Cannon and a Battle.

Mrs. Kennedy was born in Somerville, Tenn., but her father having died, her mother returned to the Devereux homestead in Carolina. There and at St. Mary's, Raleigh, most of her childhood was spent, she having graduated from the above named school at the age of sixteen. Mrs. Cannon again removed to Tennessee and Sara, after teaching awhile, was married, in 1888, to Mr. Walker Kennedy, editor and novelist. Almost all of their married life has been spent in Memphis, Tenn., where Mr. Kennedy is editor-in-chief of the leading newspaper. Mrs. Kennedy began her literary career with "A Jamestown Romance," the first story that had as a heroine one of the tobacco-bought wives of the early colony. This ran as a serial in a magazine. Then shifting her scene, she wrote a series of short Colonial stories, with New Berne and Hillsboro, N. C., as the backgrounds. Her two novels are "Jocelyn Cheshire" and "The Wooing of Judith," both of which have won high praise from the critics. She writes a great deal of verse, but has never collected this class of her work into book form. As a reader she is ranked with the best on the professional stage, although she appears only as an amateur, reading her *own* stories and poems. During the past year she has done very little with her pen because of serious trouble with her eyes.

The North Carolina Booklet

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION ISSUED UNDER
THE AUSPICES OF THE

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THIS PUBLICATION treats of important events in North Carolina History, such as may throw light upon the political, social or religious life of the people of this State during the Colonial and Revolutionary periods, in the form of monographs written and contributed by as reliable and painstaking historians as our State can produce. The Sixth Volume began in July, 1906.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

One Year, One Dollar; Single Copies, Thirty-five Cents.

Miss Mary Hilliard Hinton, Mrs. E. E. Moffitt, Editors, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Registered at Raleigh Post-office as second-class matter.

Notice should be given if the subscription is to be discontinued. Otherwise it is assumed that a continuance of the subscription is desired.

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