REV. P. N. STAINBACK

Answers Last Roll Call--A Good Man Goes To His Reward--Brief Sketch of His Life.

PETER NATHANIEL STAINBACK, [illegible] mistake took a deadly poison Tuesday, the 12th, died at his home on Elm street Monday morning, at 8 o'clock, after six days of intense suffering.

Mr. Stainback was born in Brunswick county, Va., October 7, 1841, and was the eldest child of William R. and Mary C. Stainback, his mother being a daughter of the late Nathaniel Mason, of that county.

He came to Weldon in 1881 and since that time he has been closely identified with the affairs of the town, having served on the Board of Aldermen for quite a number of years, resigning November 1st, at which time he was elected a representative to the House of the next General Assembly from Halifax county, and he had been looking forward with much pleasure to the coming session.

Mr. Stainback entered the war between the States at the age of 19 and served for four long years with conspicuous bravery. He entered as a private in Company B, Brunswick Blues, and was first lieutenant of his company when he surrendered at Appomattox Court House, April 9th, 1865.

He is survived by a wife and nine children and a large number of grandchildren and two great grandchildren, all of whom were here at the time of his death. He also leaves two sisters and four brothers.

Born and reared in the Methodist Episcopal Church Mr. Stainback identified himself with that church here and has rendered valuable and acceptable service ever since. August 22, 1887, he was licensed a local preacher. Since then he has filled most acceptably the pulpits of his own and many other churches. He was a quick and ready speaker, with an inexhaustible fund of striking illustrations, and was never dull or tiresome. Loving next to his family and his church the "Lost Cause" which he served so well, it was ever his delight to attend the reunions of the "thin gray line," and he was much sought after as a speaker for these occasions, often going to distant points to meet former friends and comrades.

At the organization of the Weldon Graded Schools he was appointed one of the trustees on the board, which office he has since held giving valuable aid to all school work. Mr. Stainback was also a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal Church and no member of the congregation took greater pride and interest in the building of the handsome new structure, a building he was never to enter alive after its completion. Mr. Stainback was of a bright and happy disposition, and was a man of big heart, kindly nature, firmly believing in the brotherhood of man, and ever ready to give the aid and assistance of all in distress.

The funeral service took place yesterday afternoon at half past one o'clock from the new Methodist Episcopal Church, which had been temporarily furnished for the occasion.

There was a profusion of floral offerings coming from friends in various sections, the designs being among the handsomest ever seen here, and the casket was banked high with these silent reminders of the high esteem in which Rev. Mr. Stainback was held.

The honorary pall bearers were members of the Graded School board as follows: W. T. Daniel, J. A. Musgrove, G. W. Fulgham, Mayor W. W. Wiggins, C. T. Shepherd, Dr. J. T. Green, Dr. W. T. Ward, A. S. Allen.

The active pall bearers were members of the Town Board of Commissioners—W. M. Cohen, R. T. Daniel, W. T. Shaw, W. T. Scott, J. W. Pierce, H. L. Grant and A. E. Wilson.

The funeral was most impressive, there being quite a number of ministers present. Rev. S. F. Mercer, pastor of the church, was assisted in the service by ministers of other Weldon churches and by visiting ministers from various charges in the district. The interment was in Cedarwood cemetery.

Blessed, comforting thought! Death for him had no terrors; his lamp was trimmed and burning and he was entered into the upper sanctuary, to enjoy the fullness of life beyond, where all is joy and peace.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

Once more the happy season of Christmas is close upon us, and again we will celebrate the anniversary of the nativity of the Christ. Falling this year on the Sabbath, it will necessarily be celebrated with subdued merriment, and in many localities Monday the 26th will be observed as the annual feast day.

From Luke's simple and sweet story of the nativity down to the present day Christmas has appealed not only to the sentimental side, but has stimulated, sweetened and blessed humanity in the advent of Christ into its confines.

The date of proverbial good will is near at hand and happy is he to whom that feeling comes not as a revelation, but who has dwelt with it the whole year long. He does not have to tone himself up for occasion, but merely comes into the full possession of his own.

We should never wander beyond the sound of the angel announcement to the shepherds; for that was the nucleus around which the prophecies of the past and the since and future cluster for the hope of mankind. When we are tempted to violate its teaching let us look toward Bethlehem, and there we shall see the never-setting star and catch the sound of the angel benediction as it reverberates to the earth's ends.

But, if in our weakness we have allowed the little foxes of spite and spleen to enter the vineyards of our hearts and cut short the wine of life, let us see to it that none of the pests go with us to this Christmas altar. We may not be able to bestow costly gifts or furnish swell entertainments; but we may at least throw our little rushlight of fellowship around us, and add some small cheer where it would be missed were it withheld.