

**CHATHAM REMINISCENCES.**

REVOLUTIONARY INCIDENTS—A TREASURER'S TORY—EVELYN HACKING MATCH, &c.  
The Whigs in the Revolution in this section of the State had a hard time. In this county and in adjoining counties, there were many Tories—people who never knew the causes that brought on the war or whose cupidities in those troublous times induced them to side with the King and make their fortunes by robbing and plundering the Whigs. For this reason, few of our able bodied men joined the continental army. They were needed at home to protect the county from the rapacity and plundering and stealing of these marauders who or very many of them met in the end with a sad fate, as I shall mention below. They had places of deposit for the property thus stolen. My old friend, John Garrett, told me that it was well authenticated by tradition that one of their places was on Cane Creek, below where the late Jesse Henly lived. They would lay by in the day and as soon as it was night, would rally out in different parties and rob and plunder and be back before day.  
As showing the character of those times and the distress our forefathers were subjected to I will mention a few incidents, which were of almost daily occurrence some where in the county.  
Joseph J. Alston, who came when a boy to America with his father John Alston from England before the Revolution and settled in Halifax county, had bought land in Chatham county and built him a house not very far from the present residence of John B. DeGrafford on the waters of Harlans creek. He was living the life with a low servant. His family at the time was in Halifax. A faithful old negro recently advised him that the Tories were going to kill him. Said he had heard it generally talked in the neighborhood. The old man was on guard no attention to the warning until one night the same old servant rushed into the house telling him "they were coming—that a large party of them were close at hand." He instantly mounted his horse and made his escape. In a few minutes the band came, took whatever they wanted and burned the house down. This was in the Revolution. No person living can point out the place where the house stood except by tradition. No Whig could be down at night in peace and quiet and free from apprehension of being robbed before day.  
The following narrative was given me by Orran Alston over forty years ago. He lived in Chatham county, two miles below Marley's mills. He will be recognized by everybody in Chatham and Randolph counties, who knew him, as a gentleman of unquestionable veracity. He was a great nephew of John Alston of whom I shall hereafter write in this article.  
In and during the Revolution, John Alston a younger brother of the J. J. Alston herein before named, moved from Halifax county, North Carolina, and settled on the Hickory mountain, not far from the present site of Emmaus church. He built him a large log cabin—two cabins and a wide passage between them. He was a man of wealth for those days. He had a large number of negroes, stock of all kinds &c. He was greatly annoyed by the Tories, so much so that he concluded to break up and move back to Halifax county. Accordingly, he packed up his wagon, collected his stock and intended to make an early start the next day. A leading Tory, whose name I will not give, as he has descendants who are good people and in no way to blame for his conduct, appeared at his door and asked him (Alston) "what does all this mean? Your wagon are loaded, your stock all got up &c., &c. You are not going to leave, are you?" "Yes, I am. I can't live here in any comfort. You kill my cattle, hogs, pull down my fences &c., and I must leave." "Well, Alston, I pledge you my word of honor that if you will change your mind and stay, you shall not be interrupted any more." He was very positive and Alston finally agreed to stay and ordered his wagon to be unloaded &c., &c. This same Tory professed to be a warm personal friend of John Alston for the following reason: Sometime before this, the Hackneys, who were all staunch Whigs in the Revolution, came to Chatham on a raid from Halifax where they lived. They caught him and took him to Halifax and were about to hang him. They had the rope around his neck, and owing to the influence and good offices of John Alston, he was spared.  
Well, a few days after this Alston with his family were eating supper when this same Tory with ten or a dozen others under his command appeared at both doors of his house and says he "Alston, you are my prisoner." Says Alston in some excitement, as was natural, "Did you not tell me that I should not be interrupted with if I staid?" "Yes Alston, but the times have changed." They went to looting the premises and among other things seized his noble black riding mare, bride and saddle &c. He paroled Alston for three days, he pledging his word to surrender himself within that time at the headquarters of Col. Pyles who would be in Orange county. He wished to be paroled to enable him to start his family and effects on the road back to Halifax county.  
Well, John Alston having started his people on the road—himself started to surrender himself according to his parole. And late in the evening reached the house of old

**Washington Letter.**  
Washington, June 18th, 1897.  
Mr. McKinley is a graduate of the Ohio school of politics, and few sick or individuals hold diplomas from that source. His trotting out of that new treaty for the annexation of Hawaii at this time is a very slick attempt to take advantage of the popularity of the idea of annexing Hawaii to distract public attention from his failure to announce his Cuba policy, in accordance with promises made on his behalf in Congress. Had the people not been clamoring for action toward Cuba it is not likely that the Hawaiian treaty would have been heard from before next winter, notwithstanding the declaration of some of Mr. McKinley's friends that it was brought forward to assist in securing of intelligent disposal of the tariff.  
Although it is well known that many of the democratic Senators favor the ultimate annexation of Hawaii very few of them have committed themselves on this new treaty. It is too important a matter to be decided on the spur of the moment, and it will not be surprising should the democratic oppose say I suppose to ratify the treaty through the Senate at the present session. Nothing will be lost by allowing the treaty to go over to the next session of Congress. Already the question is being asked, why do so much for Hawaii, several thousand miles away, and nothing for Cuba, which is suffering just at our doors, so to speak. There is some talk about denouncing a ratification of the Hawaiian treaty with Mr. McKinley's assent to do something for Cuba. Which many think must also ultimately come under the control of the U. S. in some form or other. Some democratic Senators favor holding a caucus to decide just what all this they should take towards the Hawaiian treaty, but nothing of this kind has yet been determined upon.  
Senator Thurman has proposed an amendment to the tariff bill that would do more than do in respect to the tariff on foreign goods. It provides for a local tax of 5 per cent on all immigrant and makes a similar charge for any alien who does not intend to become an American citizen and to remain such to enter the U. S. for the purpose of engaging in any mechanical trade or manual labor. There is a provision that the tax shall be raised to be levied as soon as the U. S. adopts the free coinage of silver.  
Feeling that the tariff bill amendment offered by Senator Pettigrew might be adopted on a direct vote Senator Allison, who is in charge of the tariff bill, during the absence of Senator Albritton, resorted to a little parliamentary trick to know if it would succeed. He moved that it be laid on the table and the motion was carried by a vote of 35 to 32. Had Senator Morgan and Pettigrew, the only democrats who voted for the motion, voted against it, it would have been defeated by a vote of 34 to 33 and the tariff amendment would have been added to the tariff bill. It is but fair to state that Senator Morgan and Pettigrew stated their opposition to the amendment to be that it would create more and worse trusts than it would lay existing trusts.  
Senator Vest gave Senator Allison blows straight from the shoulder in a few remarks dissecting the figures set forth by Mr. Alston in place of those submitted by Mr. Aldrich when the change was made in the sugar schedule. Mr. Vest believes that each sugar schedule has been a little better for the sugar trust than the one it succeeded & notwithstanding the public law against favoring this colossal monopoly, and the presented figures to back up his belief. According to his figures, the present tariff gives a protection of 96 degrees of sugar of 37 cents per hundred pounds; the Dingley schedule 46 cents; the Aldrich schedule 46 cents; and the present schedule, afterwards adopted by the Senate, 47 cents. Thus it is that the republican Senators who opposed the Wilson bill because they said it gave the sugar trust too much protection have put themselves on record in favor of giving the trust exactly ten cents a hundred pound more than the Wilson tariff bill gave it.

**What Fifty Cents Paid.**  
From the World's News.  
A few days ago a gentleman, who was owing his paid 50 cents on subscription. We handed it to a farmer for a load of wood, he in turn paid it immediately to the wood chopper. The wood chopper paid it to a grocer, the grocer paid it to us on his subscription. We immediately handed it back to the farmer for another load of wood. The farmer gave it to the wood chopper, remarking, "Now, Isham, that makes the \$1.00 I was owing you." "Yes," said Isham, with a grin, "and now I can buy some meat for do children at home." Figure for yourself and see what that lone 50 cents did.

**Killed by Lightning.**  
Special to the Charlotte Observer.  
Salisbury, June 17.—A colored woman, wife of Roe Miller, was killed by lightning here this afternoon at 7:30 during a violent electrical and wind storm that swept over this section of country. She was in the yard playing with her children, behind the house of Miss Alice Pearson on Ellis street, when struck. She threw up her arms and fell back dead from the shock.  
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