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ABEL A. SHUFORD DIES SUDDENLY AT HIS HOME

Hickory's Giant Figure and one of the State's Greatest Captains of Industry Passes to His Well Earned Rest--City Terribly Shocked Over News of His Death.

FOLLOWS 2 DAYS AFTER HIS BROTHER JOHN

An Immense Congregation Attended the Funeral Sunday Morning at the Reformed Church, Many Coming from a Distance.

A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER.

He Came off a Farm and by His Industry and Ability Made a Great Fortune Which was Invested in Nearly all the Chief Industries of This City and Section--His Greatest Investment was in Young Men Beautiful and Just Tribute Paid by Dr. Murphy.

Less than 24 hours after attending the funeral of his brother John, Mr. Abel A. Shuford, Hickory's premier citizen died suddenly of heart failure as he was reclining on a lounge upstairs in his home, at one o'clock last Friday.

He had not gone to the bank as usual, complaining of not feeling very well. At one o'clock he was seized with a sudden rigor. Mrs. Shuford was with him, and at once had the physician summoned but in three minutes the spirit had escaped from the fetters of the body, and was a-wing to the heavenly home to join the departed brother.

Mr. Shuford seemed to have had a slight apprehension about his condition, as he had expressed the hope to his physician, Dr. H. C. Menzies, that the latter would not have to go far out in the country during the day.

A CITY'S GRIEF.

The news struck the city like a thunderbolt, and it was well-nigh dumb-founded in the shock of sudden grief. It went with the wings of the wind. The electric current flashed it over the wires, and it was amazing how soon the suburbs and the country were ringing the centers of the city for particulars. Men stood in groups on the street, and spoke of it with sad countenances, and the universal word from one to another was: "I have lost a friend."

Mr. Shuford's great strength of other days had been waning during recent months, though few knew it. He went about his systematic routine as usual, to bank, to mill office, etc., and lent his cool, quick, unerring judgment to the solution of the day's business problems. Tuesday before his death he attended at Morganton a directors meeting of the State Hospital. But he knew the sun was lowering to the western horizon, and had the feeling that his summons would come as quickly as that of his father and one of his sisters. There is little doubt that the shock of his brother John's death two days before helped to hasten the end.

A STRANGE COINCIDENCE.

Dr. J. L. Murphy, pastor of the deceased, and whom he loved and confided in, as in few others, was summoned at once from the meeting of the Reformed Church Classis at St. Matthews church, 14 miles distant, in Lincoln county. Mr. Joe Murphy went for his father, whom he found on the floor of Classis, making this statement:

That Mr. A. A. Shuford had stated that if Classis would raise \$5,000 for Catawba College he would add to it the same amount.

negro Dobson assumed a sanctified look when he took the parson's horse. Farewell to the old farm. It has now passed into the hands of others. May it be to them a pleasant home.

He was a powerful youth physically when he first came to Hickory in an unsuccessful effort to learn the tanner's trade. There are traditions afloat of his great power to lift.

As no new boy was needed at the tannery, he secured a position as clerk in the store of Levi Elias, father of the late Kope Elias. When the war came on, he volunteered at the age of 19 in Co. F., 23rd N. C. Regiment.

He was quickly promoted to corporal and then to second sergeant. In his first battle, Williamsburg, he carried the colors of the regiment. Through Seven Pines, the Seven Days campaign to Cold Harbor he went. Here he was wounded. He returned in time for Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville. At Gettysburg he was wounded and captured, and was held at Pt. Lookout for 21 months. He was exchanged, and was home on a furlough when the war closed.

During a truce between the Yankee and Confederate pickets, he took a package of tobacco in his teeth, and swam to the middle of a river, to swap it for a bag of coffee, which an equally daring Federal soldier swam out with.

One of the leading business men of Hickory was saying when the sad news of his death flashed over the city, that there was a day when bankruptcy was staring him in the face. One thousand dollars would save him but he had borrowed up to the limit. When Mr. Shuford heard of it he called him into his back office, listened to his statement of his case and then himself endorsed a note for the needed \$1,000.

CAME OFF A FARM.

Mr. Shuford was the son of Jacob H. and Catherine Shuford, and was born on their farm five miles south of Hickory. He had that grandest of training for life which comes from communion with the morning star, when a lad must needs rise before the crack of day to feed the stock; from drinking the sweet water of the spring out of a calabash; from tickling the fertile fields (to borrow Jerrold's figure) with plow and hoe till they laughed with a harvest.

Of the home place, Rev. J. H. Shuford some years ago wrote this tender description:

I learn from the Piedmont Press that the old farm has been sold and passed out of the family. Permit me to utter a few parting words suggested by the occasion. The farm came into the hands of my father by descent from his father and it was the home of my parents from the time of their marriage to the time of their death. Eleven children were born to them on this farm, eight of whom are still living.

The old plantation was at its best in the days of negro slavery. It was a home for the blacks, and I doubt not it is a dear spot to the surviving servants who labored on it. I saw the departure of the boys in gray, who went forth to establish the independence of the Southern Confederacy, and witnessed the return of all save one, who sleeps in a soldier's grave on the battle ground of the Wilderness. There was rejoicing on the old farm when those boys came home, such as filled the home of the prodigal son when he returned to his father. The farm was near the river, whose waters afforded a pleasant place for bathing. Besides the bathing, the boys hunted the rabbit by day and the opossum by night. These were our enjoyments in the happy past. The old farm was the home of hospitality. The traveler found there a resting place at night, and the poor were never turned from its doors empty. The words of the Savior, "The poor ye always have with you" were true in that place. There the minister of the Gospel was received with reverence due his sacred calling. The children were quiet in his presence, and even

When Mr. Chase went to Alabama, the business was closed out. With the failure of the old Schuler bank, Mr. Shuford associating with himself K. C. Menzies, O. M. Royster and others, organized the Citizens' bank, which was later merged into the present First National bank. This was in 1890, and Mr. Shuford remained its president until his death. Today it is one of the strongest institutions in western North Carolina.

Mr. Shuford was connected with most of the business interests of the city. He was president of the Hickory Manufacturing Co.; Hickory Electric Co.; and Shuford National Bank, of Newton; secretary and treasurer of the Ivey Mill Co., and Granite Falls Mfg. Co.; treasurer of the A. A. Shuford Mill Co., and director of the Piedmont Wagon and Mfg. Co.; Dudley Shoals Cotton Mills, First National Bank, of Morganton; Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Co.; one of the Greensboro fire insurance companies; the Lenoir Telephone Exchange.

He was also for years a director in the Morganton Hospital, and Catawba and Claremont colleges.

Mr. Shuford was a Democrat from principle and was intensely interested in the success of his party. He always spent election day at the polls for his party, never begging men to vote but his very presence was a great lev-



ABEL ALEXANDER SHUFORD.

In Prof. Hahn's book, "The Catawba Soldier," Mr. Henry P. Rudisill says that he and five other men, getting scattered at Chancellorsville, suddenly found themselves within the enemy's picket lines. He continues: "We saw two of the enemy's pickets lying behind a log sighting, ready to shoot at us; one of us (a prominent man of this county) fired and shot one of the pickets through the head and killed him instantly. He felt very sorry for having killed a man, or rather knowing that he had killed a man, and begged me not to tell it on him at home." And it was never told in print that it was Mr. Shuford who fired that shot. His tender heart always hated the thought, though it was a war, and self-defence, too.

AFTER THE WAR.

Mr. Shuford and A. L. Shuford, his brother, went into the mercantile business after the war and later William H. Ellis became a partner under the name of Ellis & Shuford, and when Mr. Ellis eventually retired, H. D. Abernethy and Herbert Chase entered the company, which became the A. A. Shuford Co.,

streamed through, itself lessened by the clouds outside, for Nature herself was in a mournful mood, and mingled her tears with those of human friends. Had it not been a rainy day the congregation outside would have been larger than the 200 or so who could not, as it was, get into the church.

Grief bowed its head behind its black crape but Hope, the soul's anchor in life's storms, shrouded and thrilled in every sentence of the pastor's message, and the fragrant flowers, massed in variegated glory, for three tiers high in front of the chancel, themselves the heralding archangels of the Year's resurrection from the death of winter, in letters of beauty answered "Yes" to life's greatest question: "If a man die, shall he live again?"

Rev. Messrs. Harts of the Baptist and Garth of the Presbyterian churches were it the pulpit with Dr. Murphy and with Rev. Messrs. Peeler, of Lenoir and Rowe of Newton. The Reformed ministers, after the singing of Nearer my God, to Thee, read Scripture lessons, when Dr. Murphy offered the following prayer:

"Oh, God, our Father, and the God and Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we look to Thee, rejoicing in the great love Thou hast manifested toward us in providing redemption through the blood of Christ. We thank Thee for manifesting Thy fatherly care for us, and that Thou hast revealed to us that there remaineth a rest for the people of God, and a life beyond this Vale of Tears, better, sweeter, nobler, purer, and where all is good and upright and true, and where there is no need of the physical sun, because the glory of God is the light thereof. We thank Thee for all the sweet promises of Thy word, full of comfort and the assurance of Thy love, and that Thou hast said: 'I will be with thee.'"

"We thank Thee for the beautiful life of fidelity and usefulness of our departed brother. We thank Thee for his influence for good, for his wonderful tenderness of heart and spirit; that he lived among us and that we can inherit the legacy of his life. Give grace to and throw thine arms around these weeping ones, and enable them say, 'The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.'"

"Bear up, too, in Thy comfort this great congregation. We remember all his friends. We remember his business associates, the consistory of his church, his Sunday School class, and his own immediate family. Let them hear thy words; 'Ye believe in God; believe also in Me. I go to prepare a place for you.' It will not be so long till He will come again and we will all be reunited again forever with Him. We give the praise to Him who has washed us in His blood, Amen."

After the hymn "How blest the righteous when he dies" Dr. Murphy took his text from 1 Ki. 7:22, and Rev. 3:12.

And upon top of the pillars was lily work. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God.

The references here he said were to a pillar of the temple, which was at once strong and beautiful ornamented. In building a character two things were essential, strength and lily work of the Christian graces. These were both combined in the Christian life of the departed brother. He inherited the strength of pious ancestors. This kind of life had been lived by the five members of the family whom he had been called to lay to rest.

Faith in God makes a man strong. As a young man Abel A. Shuford heeded the call to arms of his country but before going to the field he went to old Bethel church, and kneeling before the altar consecrated his life to God.

He had the convictions and purpose of a strong man. One mark was his fidelity. He was open to convictions but once settled he could not easily be moved. He never wavered from his political and religious convictions. He was strong because he was sincere.

His strength was seen in the business world. But the beauty of his life, its lily work, was seen in its benevolences, and who hasn't been helped by him? "Another ornament was his tenderness. I have been his pastor for 22 years and I never heard him say an unkind word. He was most guarded in his utterances.

Still another was his readiness to help people, especially young men and start them in business. 'Here is a letter that gives me comfort', he would say. It would be from some young man whom he had helped to get a start in life. He believed in young men and has always told me that they yielded him the best investments he ever made. He loved best to help the old veterans, and always sent a substitute to the reunion when he could not go himself.

Another ornament was his desire for peace, and he lived the beatitude that makes one a child of God.

HIS CHURCH LIFE.

"In his church was where the beauty of his character was most strongly manifested. This church was organized 43 years ago and he was a charter member. He never would consent to being made an elder, insisting that he could serve best as a deacon. He always taught a Sunday school class, and for the 22 years that I have been pastor he never missed a service except when indisposed or absent from the city, and then he always made it a point to give me his reason. He was always in church on the coldest or the hottest day or the darkest night.

"The other day he became tired and went to sleep, waking up in the presence of God. Only a few days before he had said to his brother, 'John, cheer up. You will get better and we will go over into Alexander county to the Springs and take a good long rest together.' The brothers indeed have gone off together to rest forever in that rest that remains to the people of God, and they are drinking from those springs of living water that flow out from the throne into the river of life."

After a tender prayer by Mr. Rowe, the choir sang Lead, Kindly Light, and the services were concluded at the grave.

All the children and grandchildren were present. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon H. Cillee, and children, of Philadelphia, arrived Sunday morning at 7 o'clock. There was some confusion over a telegram which led them to think they were receiving a delayed message about Mr. Shuford's death. The funeral had therefore to be postponed till Sunday from Saturday at 3 p. m. as at first arranged.

Mrs. Shuford was on the arm of the oldest son, Mr. A. A. Shuford, Jr., and the others were Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Menzies, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Blackwell, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Shuford, and Misses Rosa Campbell and Mary Campbell Shuford.

SOME OF THOSE PRESENT

The active pall-bearers were Messrs. A. S. Abernethy, K. C. Menzies, J. L. Riddle, J. A. Bowles, George F. Ivey, N. S. Dasher, Judge W. B. Council and W. C. Feimster, of Newton.

Honorary: P. G. Moore, Granite Falls; Dr. John McCampbell, I. I. Davis, F. M. Scroggs, Morganton; Dr. Anderson, Richmond; J. G. Hall, Lenoir; A. C. Link and Dr. W. H. Nicholson, Hickory.

Some of the out-of-town attendants were Mrs. Russell Sherrill, of Raleigh; Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Craig, Statesville; Paul Allen and Thomas Stewart, Charlotte; Arthur Ingold, Morganton; J. G. Hall, M. M. Courtney, Dr. A. A. Kent, Dr. C. B. McNairy, Maj. G. W. F. Harper, J. H. Beall, Lenoir; W. B. Gaither, W. C. Feimster, A. H. Crowell, Mrs. Ralph L. Little, Byron Shuford, S. H. Rhyne, and Mrs. F. M. Williams, Newton; P. G. Moore, J. M. Allred, D. H. Warlick, Granite Falls; C. F. Cline and W. A. Warlick, Gilkey; L. H. Bathis and C. E. Carpenter, Gastonia, and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. S. Powell, Asheville.

Among the floral tributes, the First National Bank sent a beautiful wreath of lilies and roses; the Shuford Bank in Newton and the Ivey cotton mill, American Beauty roses; Chase Bros., of Alabama, a red, and Whitener & Martin a purple wreath; Hickory Electric Co. a crescent; Shuford Hdw. Co. an upright piece; Sanders & Orr, Charlotte, a wreath, besides scores of others.

COLORED FRIENDS' KINDLY OFFICES.

The steel vault encasing the casket was lowered into its place by ten colored men, who were glad to have their part in the last sad ministry of love, and by special request of the family the following colored men filled the grave: George Feimster, Sam Brown, Lee Gaither, Frank Best, Tom Davis, and Ivey Scott.

The rain had ceased and the clouds were lifting when the casket was lowered to its place, and covered with flowers, and the clear, sweet notes of a wood robin rang out at intervals from the dripping greenery of the trees almost as if they might have been the echoes of the bell that had just ceased its tolling in the church belfry across the town.

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JOHN M. SHUFORD.

Splendid Citizen Passes Quietly Away to His Rest.

Mr. John M. Shuford died May 1st at the Richard Baker Hospital, which was built within the past year by his gifted son, Dr. J. H. Shuford. He had lingered for long months with a wasting disease, which pitiably sapped his strength. Nothing cheered him more in his last days than visits from his brother Abel.

Mr. Shuford's pure kindly face under a shock of snow-white hair will never be forgotten by those who knew him as neighbor and citizen. He was an industrious and successful business man and a modest but earnest Christian. The rare privilege enjoyed by few men in this life was his of having his entire unbroken family grow up and live neighbor to him till his death.

The Reformed church was filled to overflowing on last Thursday afternoon when the funeral was preached by his pastor, Dr. Murphy, who had been summoned from Classis at St. Matthews church to perform this last sad honor, as he was summoned again a few days later to do.

The following is a biography of Mr. Shuford prepared by his brother, Rev. Julius H. Shuford, of King's Creek, in his book "A Historical Sketch of the Shuford Family."

John M. Shuford.

John M. Shuford is a son of Jacob H. Shuford. Jacob H. Shuford is a son of Jacob Shuford, who died in 1844. Jacob Shuford is a son of Martin Shuford, who died in 1780. Martin Shuford is a son of John Shuford, who died in 1790.

John M. Shuford was born in Catawba County, N. C., March 9, 1847. His father was a successful farmer in Catawba County, N. C. John M. Shuford was raised upon his father's farm. When 17 years of age he became a soldier in the Confederate Army. He was captured at the fall of Fort Fisher December 25 1864 and was held as a prisoner of war until June 20 1865 when he returned home being released from prison.

He became heir to that part of the farm upon which his parents lived and farmed and took care of them during their last days.

While farming on the old homestead he was considered one of the best farmers in Catawba County N. C. Some time after the death of his parents he moved to Hickory N. C. for the purpose of educating his children. His two daughters were educated at Claremont College Hickory N. C.

January 13 1870 he married Alice Wilson a daughter of Maj. Wilson of Catawba County N. C. There are four children of this marriage. The children are: Ada C. Shuford, Carroll Shuford, Suehonor Shuford and Jacob Shuford.

Since John Shuford has been living at Hickory N. C. he has been farming and merchandising and has been successful in both.

He and his wife and children are members of the Reformed church of U. S. He was deacon in the Reformed church at Bethel for many years. This is the church where he was raised and where his parents worshipped in their day. He held the office of deacon in the Reformed church at Hickory for some years. He now (1901) lives at Hickory N. C. His wife was born January 16 1851.

Ada Catherine the oldest daughter of John M. and Alice Wilson Shuford was born November 9 1870 and was married to G. Harvey Geitner on the 17th of August 1892 by the Rev. J. L. Murphy. Mr. Geitner is a Pennsylvanian and was born at Lititz, Lancaster County of that State and belonged to the well known Moravian community which is noted for the thrift and substantial character of its members.

On coming to North Carolina Mr. Geitner who was but a boy settled with his father's family in the town of Hickory. He identified himself with the Piedmont Wagon Company of that town.

On settling in Hickory he connected himself with the Reformed church and has served the congregation as a ruling elder and is one of the most liberal supporters.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Geitner are John George who was born June 15 1893 and Frances Royer who was born July 10 1896.

Carroll M. Shuford was born March 22 1872. He took a course of pharmacy at the Maryland College Baltimore Md. He owns a drug store and is a successful business man. His home is in Hickory N. C. He has a fine home at that place. Carroll Shuford married Miss Elizabeth Christine Zahring of Columbia Mo. July 14 1898.

Mrs. Carroll Shuford was a teacher of science in Claremont College and is

(Continued on last page.)