

Graham, most outstanding statesman

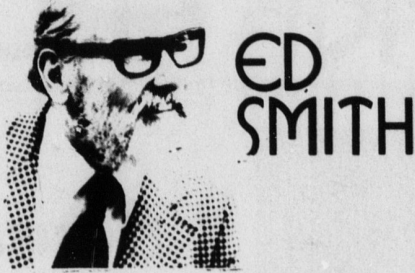
William A. Graham has been described as . . . "the most outstanding statesman in North Carolina history." He died on Aug. 11, 1878, in Hillsborough.

Though other men born in this state reached higher political office than Graham, none did so while still a legal resident of North Carolina.

Graham was born in eastern Lincoln County near the present community of Iron Station. His birthplace, at Vesuvius Furnace, still stands. It is the home where this writer lives and where these words are being written. Graham's father, General Joseph Graham, was the area's first iron manufacturer, and in 1792 named his furnace Vesuvius after the famous Italian volcano.

William A. Graham, a Whig, served as Governor (1848-49), as U. S. Senator, Secretary of the Navy, and as Vice Presidential candidate, along with General Winfield Scott, in 1852. The Scott-Graham ticket was a North-South compromise which the Whigs hoped would end the friction between the two sections. Its failure (and the subsequent collapse of the Whig party) helped doom the nation to civil war.

Though he opposed secession, Graham served as a Confederate senator and as a member of Jefferson Davis' cabinet. All five of his sons served as Southern officers, and three of his nieces were married to Confederate generals — Stonewall Jackson, D. H.



Hill and Rufus Barringer! After the war, Graham was again elected by this state to the U. S. Senate, but was one of the Southern representatives refused admission by the Reconstruction Congress.

As Secretary of the Navy, under President Millard Fillmore, Graham organized the famous Perry expedition to Japan, opening that nation to the outside world for the first time.

The Graham family was active in North Carolina political affairs at the state level for nearly a century-and-a-half, a record unmatched by any other Tar Heel family.

On Aug. 8, 1774, the citizens of Rowan County adopted a set of resolutions condemning Great Britain for closing the Port of Boston. They agreed to import no more British-made goods (a full month before the Continental Congress took a similar step) and severely criticized the Crown's taxes and import duties.

As an extra measure, the Rowan group also condemned the "African Trade," passing what was probably the first anti-slavery resolution in American history.

Robert B. Glenn, of Rockingham County, Governor 1906-08, was born on Aug. 11, 1854.

Though he also fought an epic battle over railroad freight rates, Glenn is best remembered as the champion of state-wide prohibition. It was during his term that North Carolina went bone-dry for the first time, and stayed that way until the 1930's.

The first radio S.O.S. in history was sent by the steamship "Arapaho" off Cape Hatteras on Aug. 11, 1901.



Progress very slow

In the continuing effort to improve the programs and services for the handicapped of North Carolina, we sometimes feel that little progress is being made. Eight to nine years ago, the handicapped and the professional people working with them were acutely aware that this state had no comprehensive rehabilitation facilities. We had some of the best medical facilities in the nation, along with many vocational training programs. However, if a citizen needed comprehensive rehabilitation services, he was forced to go out of the state to receive them. At that time, North Carolinians could only read about the modern rehabilitation technique that were being used in places like New York.

As a result, of the statewide survey, a few of our far-sighted leaders began to dream. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation was given the task of developing a long-range plan to make such services available in North Carolina. After the preliminary studies, those dreams evolved into a plan for a statewide system of rehabilitation

centers. The primary goal of this system was to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in easy reach of every handicapped citizen. Our present comprehensive rehabilitation centers emerged from that research and planning. It was decided that centers should be physically connected to, or located in close proximity to, a general hospital to insure medical coverage and referral of patients to the rehabilitation center.

These centers in Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville, Asheville, and Greenville are now serving both inpatients and outpatients on a daily basis. With little fanfare, these regional centers have taken their rightful places alongside of this state's outstanding health facilities. North Carolinians are now able to receive the rehabilitation services that they need without having to travel to another part of the nation. In fact, handicapped North Carolinians can receive rehabilitation services within 100 miles of their homes.

A center to complete the statewide system is under develop — at Chapel Hill which will not only serve disabled patients and students at UNC-Chapel Hill, but provide valuable educational, research, and rehabilitation information components.

Today these centers represent not only brick and mortar, but a concentration of highly skilled professional talent that can aid in the restoration of the physically handicapped. Through the joint efforts of many North Carolinians, the dreams of a few passionate and far-sighted people have become realities.

Food stamp program amended

Carol Tucker Foreman, assistant secretary of Agriculture has announced regulations requiring that eligible applicants for the food stamp program receive benefits within a prescribed period of time.

Under these amendments to food stamp program regulations, eligible households must be authorized to buy their food stamps within a time limit that begins the day the state welfare agency receives the good stamp application, and ends the last day of the following month.

If a household does not receive authorization to purchase food stamps within the prescribed time limit, their lost food stamp benefits must be restored. Lost benefits are calculated from the first day of the month which follows the month of application.

For example, a household applying in March would have to be able to purchase its food stamps before the end of April. Otherwise, the full amount of

bonus stamps the household should have received in April is restored. Benefits are restored by increasing in future months the amount of bonus stamps the household is entitled to receive.

Although food stamp regulations require states to approve or deny a food stamp application within 30 days, until now there has been no time limit on actually giving an eligible household this opportunity to purchase their food stamp allotment.

Officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) acknowledged that this standard could give a state as much as 60 days to provide the opportunity to purchase.

But, officials said, states would be expected to act on applications received early in the month in time to enable households to purchase early the next month.

The Department had proposed in March, 1976, to set a 48-day standard for providing the opportunity to purchase

food stamps, but modified that proposal in response to comments. Many persons opposed a fixed 45-day limit, officials said, because in some cases this standard could span three months.

Some comments suggested a 30-day time limit, but officials said that present legislation does not provide for a 30-day limit.

The amended regulations also: — establish a procedure for restoring lost food stamp benefits to "zero purchase" households — those that get food stamps free because they have little or no income. These households would have benefits restored by increasing their monthly stamp allotment by up to 50 percent.

— state that a household can claim lost benefits if an incorrectly high purchase requirement prevents the household from obtaining all the food stamps to which it is entitled.

The amended regulations were published in the Federal Register July 26.

Poet's Corner



THE TRICKY THIEF

Lucifer is out to sway us
His aim is the precious soul,
To wilt the blossom of sweet life
With his satanic hold.
Don't be blinded by the blood gleaner
He works hardest when we're asleep,
Or resting on self-righteousness
He loves to slaughter little sheep.

Be alert to his sly wiles
There is a way to cast him down,
Put on the full armor of Jesus Christ,
And voice the good news around,
Satan is the worlds biggest bluffer
His power folds completely under,
From the Holy Spirit he will flee
With the speed of lightning under thunder.

Yes he will return you bet
To take us by surprise,
Perhaps in a moment of weakness
He attacks in a beautiful disguise.
But if faith is anchored deep
Nothing can sway the will,
Defy Satan time after time
In evil's attempt to kill.

Come out victoriously
With God's banner waving high,
His holy angels applauding
The glory through the sky.
There is only one way to be a winner
The way is by way of the cross,
Where His atoning blood flowed freely
And His grace shall never exhaust.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

The 1977 session of the North Carolina General Assembly has rewritten and/or amended statutes that affect the registration of motor vehicles.

Some of these are:
1. An increase in driver education fees for motor vehicle license plates from \$2 to \$3. This means that plates on all licensed vehicles that heretofore were \$15 will now cost \$16.

Hats off to KM citizens

Dear Editor,
On behalf of the Kings Mountain Babe Ruth League I would like to express our deepest appreciation to everyone that took a part in our recent N. C. State 16-year-old Babe Ruth baseball tournament, especially to our foster parents. We could never have pulled it through without their help.

We asked and they responded immediately and did a great job with the boys. We can never repay them for their many kindnesses.

Again, I say "Hat's Off to the many fine people of Kings Mountain."
MRS. FRANKIE WHITE
Kings Mountain

2. Anyone having a permanent license plate will now be allowed to transfer these plates from one vehicle to another of the same classification upon payment of a \$2 transfer fee rather than having to buy new plates;

3. Vehicles 35 years old or older will have their classification changed from "Horseless Carriage" to "Antique Auto" for an annual fee of \$9. Vehicles 50 years old and older will be designated as Horseless Carriages and will be issued a permanent license plate for a fee of \$18.

4. Special license plates can now be issued to members of fire departments or rescue squads upon payment of an additional \$10. The license plate will identify the member with the words

"Fireman" or "Rescue Squad" or "Fireman-Rescue Squad."

Applications may be obtained through the local branch offices or the Division of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh and must be completed and returned to the Division of Motor Vehicles on or before October 1st of each year;

5. Ex-prisoners of war are no longer required to have been a resident of North Carolina during the period in which they became a prisoner to qualify for a POW license plate. These plates may be obtained from the Division of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh for the regular registration fee of \$16;

6. Provisions have been made giving the Division of Motor Vehicles the authority to issue special distinguishing placards to handicapped persons who do

not own vehicles. These placards will grant the handicapped person the same parking privileges as those using the plates on their vehicles;

7. Notary fees have been increased from \$.50 to \$1; and

8. Persons wishing to purchase a personalized license plate for the coming year must complete an application prior to September 1. These applications are available through the local branch offices throughout the State and at the Motor Vehicles Building in Raleigh. An additional registration fee of \$10 is required for all personalized plates.

Additional information about vehicle registration procedures in North Carolina can be obtained by calling (919) 788-7454.

Motor vehicles registration affected

Health insurance up for aged

Because the federal government is paying less in Medicare benefits, people over 65 will have to pay more for their individual, supplemental health insurance.

Rate increases of 17 percent and 23 percent requested by Blue Cross-Blue Shield of North Carolina for its Medicare supplemental insurance have been allowed by Insurance Commissioner John Ingram because the federal government has raised its Medicare deductible which means the private citizen must pay more of the initial cost.

The rate increases will affect approximately 129,000 people. Ingram said that the federal government has let the over age 65 people down.

"I believe these rate increases, while necessary for the solvency of the insurance company, are placing an undue hardship on our citizens who are least able to pay — those over age 65. Almost all of these people live on a fixed income, and many of them have only Social Security."

Ingram said he was writing President Carter advising him that the reduction in Medicare payments was approved by the prior Administration.

"I am asking President Carter to recommend restoring these Medicare benefits so that our over age 65 citizens living on Social Security will not suffer."

The 17 percent increase for the "high option" policy will mean an increase in cost from \$12.43 per month to \$14.58 per month. If it had not been for Medicare paying less, the increase would have been only 44 cents for higher claims cost and inflation. The 23 percent increase for the "low option" policy mean an increase from \$7.87 per month to \$9.65 per month. If it had not been for Medicare paying less, the increase would have been only 11 cent for higher claims cost and inflation.

Ingram said that the rate increases were approved after a hearing was held by Deputy Commissioner Ken Brown, who ruled that the rate increases were

necessary because it was estimated that the fund used for paying claims would be in the red \$788,205.78 by the end of August.

Brown said that the rate increases were brought about by a change in the Medicare deductible. Instead of paying everything above \$104.00 on the high option policy, Medicare is now paying everything above \$124.00 — an increase of \$20.00 which must be paid by the supplemental insurance policy. Instead of paying everything above \$36.00, Medicare is now paying everything above \$51.00 on the low option policy — an increase of \$15.00 which must be paid by the supplemental insurance.

Ingram also announced that other hearings had been held by Deputy Commissioner Brown and that orders had been issued approving a 15 percent reduction in rates for special multi-peril insurance (perils beyond fire, such as boiler and machinery) by Northern Insurance Company of New York and a 15 percent reduction had been approved for fire and allied line policies by the St. Paul Insurance Company.

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