

# THE ROBESONIAN

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LUMBERTON, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1912.

WHOLE NO. 2781

## DR. R. M. NORMENT PASSES

**Lumberton's Oldest Citizen Falls Peacefully on Sleep—Funeral With Masonic Honors Yesterday Afternoon—An Eventful Life—A Veteran of Two Wars, a Physician and a Politician—Close of a Useful Life.**

Dr. R. M. Norment, Lumberton's oldest citizen and postmaster, well known throughout the State, passed away at his home on Sixth street at 2:26 o'clock Tuesday morning. He was in his 84th year. He had been confined to his home practically all the time for the past two years, though he was able to sit up until twelve days before his death. Since two weeks ago today his death had been expected almost any hour. Besides general breakdown, death was due to jaundice. He himself had foreseen the manner of his death a year ago, and it differed scarcely at all from what he then told his devoted wife. Though he suffered somewhat during the few days before his death, the end was painless. He fell peacefully upon sleep.

The funeral was conducted from the residence yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock by Rev. J. W. Bradley, pastor of Chestnut Street Methodist church, assisted by Rev. R. E. Steele, pastor of the Presbyterian church. It was intended to have Rev. C. H. Durham, pastor of the First Baptist church, to assist in the service also, but he was away from town assisting in a series of meetings at Saddle Tree. The ritualistic service of the Methodist church, of which the deceased was for years a member, was used. During the service at the residence "Abide With Me" and "In That Beautiful Land" were sung by a male quartet composed of Messrs. J. Pope Stephens, Frank Gough, E. B. Freeman and C. B. Skipper, and at the grave the same quartet sang "I Would Not Live Away" and "Nearer, My God, to Thee."

At the conclusion of the service at the residence Mr. Bradley announced that all who cared to do so might pass through the house and view the remains, and many took advantage of the opportunity to gaze upon the well-known features for the last time.

The service at the grave, Norment cemetery on Fifth street, was conducted by the Masons, a large number of whom, some from out of town, was present. Mr. E. J. Britt led this service, which was concluded with benediction by Rev. Mr. Bradley.

There were many beautiful floral offerings and a large crowd of people attended the funeral, a crowd that overflowed on to the sidewalk and into the street in front of the residence and waited patiently, with bared heads, during the service. Many out-of-town people attended the funeral—old comrades in arms, some of them in Confederate grey, fellow Masons and others.

The postoffice and all the stores of the town were closed during the funeral.

The pall-bearers were: active, Messrs. R. D. Caldwell, Q. T. Williams, L. H. Caldwell, K. M. Biggs, C. B. Skipper, Frank Gough; honorary, Messrs. A. W. McLean, H. B. Jennings, A. P. Caldwell, S. A. Branch, Geo. M. Whitfield, S. E. Britt, C. M. Fuller, W. W. Carlyle, Owen Deese, J. H. Floyd, and all the Confederate veterans and physicians present.

Richard Montgomery Norment was born in Sharon township, Mecklenburg county, within about two miles of Charlotte, February 1, 1829, and was, therefore, on the day of his death 83 years, 5 months and 29 days old. He spent most of his boyhood in Charlotte, where his father, William Stokes Norment, was engaged in business. When about 17 years old he volunteered for the Mexican War, through which he served. Returning from that war at the end of three years, he began the study of medicine at Castleton, Vt., and completed his medical course in Charleston, though he did not graduate.

In 1853 Dr. Norment moved to Lumberton and began the practice of medicine here. In 1860 he was united in marriage to Miss May F. Norment, a cousin, sister of Mr. Owen C. Norment

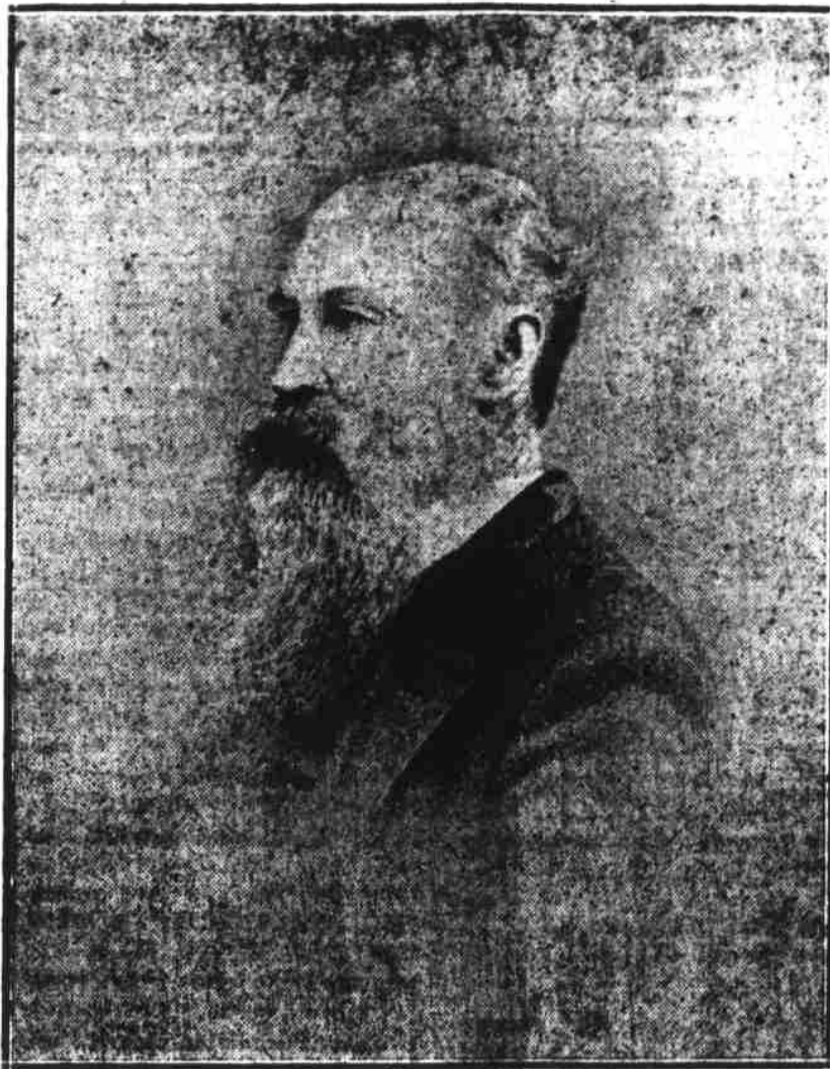
of Lumberton. Shortly after his marriage he organized a company here and was elected its captain, the first company from this county. That company was disbanded at Norfolk within 6 months and he returned to Lumberton and organized another company, Company A, 46th Regiment, North Carolina volunteers. He was also captain of that company and served through the war, being promoted to the rank of major.

Returning to Lumberton after the war, Dr. Norment resumed the practice of medicine and took an active interest in politics, first as a Democrat, then as an independent, and finally as a Republican. In 1870 he was elected to the State Senate as a Democrat from Robeson, which was then, as now, a senatorial district. In 1872, on account of some dissatisfaction with Dr. Norment's attitude toward the impeachment of W. W. Holden, Dr. Norment did not receive the nomination, which was given first to Col. N. A. McLean, father of the late Col. N. A. McLean, who later declined and the nomination was given to Jno. W. Ellis of Columbus county, Robeson and Columbus having been made a senatorial district by the Legislature of 1871. Dr. Norment then ran as an independent and was defeated. In 1875 Dr. Norment and Neill McNeill were candidates on the Republican ticket for the Constitutional convention and were defeated by Sinclair and McEachern. Dr. Norment contested the election and the Democrats won. This was the election in which the famous telegram from Gen. Cox to the late W. F. French—"As you love your State, hold Robeson"—figured.

Dr. Norment's next venture as a candidate was in 1878, when he was elected a member of the House of Representatives as a Republican. He was a member of the House again in 1895, when he contested the election of Payne, Democrat, and won. He was president of the North Carolina Railroad under Russell in 1896-97, being succeeded by Armstrong of Fayetteville. He was also at one time a candidate for the office of Secretary of State. He was appointed postmaster here in 1900 and held that office until his death, though for the past two years he had not been able to give active attention to the duties of the office.

Dr. Norment's first wife died in 1874. Of that union were born five children, Dr. T. A. Norment of Lumberton being the only one who survives. In 1880 Dr. Norment moved to Charlotte to look after his father's affairs and moved back to Lumberton in 1886. On December 22d of that year he was united in marriage to Miss Maggie Rogers, who lived near Lumberton and who, with two sons, Mr. Richard Montgomery, who is telegraph editor of the Wilmington Star, and Mr. Wallace McDiarmid, who is a clerk in the Lumberton postoffice, survives.

Dr. Norment was in many respects a remarkable man. He lost five brothers in the War between the States and another brother, Owen, was killed by the notorious Lowry band of outlaws shortly after the war, and he was the last member of the family. A veteran of two wars, serving when but a boy under Scott from Vera Cruz to the City of New Mexico in the War with Mexico, being in most of the important engagements of that war; serving through the war between the States; actively engaged in politics during a period in the history of the State that tried men's souls; actively engaged, meanwhile, in the practice of medicine—he found time, somehow, to become a man of wide learning, though his school days, outside his course in medicine, were covered by three years in a high school in Charlotte. He did not graduate at a medical college and was handicapped during the first years of his practice of medicine, but he was a man of such sound common sense and ability that he won his way to the front and was eminently successful in his profession. He never turned away a call for his professional services, even in his latter days when he was feeble and scarce



DR. R. M. NORMENT.

able to go, but always responded to any call where he might relieve suffering, whether there was prospect of pay or not; and it is matter of common report that he might have spent his last days in comparative wealth and ease had he been as careful to charge and collect for his services as he was to go when called.

Verily one of the old landmarks has passed to his reward. He was identified with the history of Robeson county for some 60 years and when, full of years, he fell upon sleep, he was loved and honored by the people of the county among whom he had lived.

## CANDIDATES REGISTERED FOR DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

Following is a list of those who have qualified as candidates in the Democratic primary to be held in Robeson county August 10, 1912, by complying with the requirements of registration with the chairman of the county executive committee, the time for registration having closed last night.

### For Senate

T. A. McNeill, Jr., Geo. B. McLeod, H. E. Stacy.

**For House of Representatives**  
Dr. W. A. McPhaul, H. C. McNair, Maj. Geo. H. Hall, Dr. J. D. Croom, Sr., Dr. B. F. McMillan.

### For Treasurer

M. G. McKenzie, Thomas Kinlaw.

### For Register of Deeds

Thomas N. Higley, W. Austin Smith, J. E. Carlyle, T. T. Barker.

### For Sheriff

R. E. Lewis, J. M. Butler.

### For Coroner

Geo. A. Barnes, G. E. Rancke, Sr.

### For County Commissioner (Four Year Term)

F. P. Humphrey, C. B. Townsend, E. C. Nye, J. A. McCormick, M. L. Marley, John W. Ward, C. A. Oliver, J. B. McCormick, J. F. McKay, D. Z. McGougan.

### For County Commissioner (Two Year Term)

Roy McNair, W. P. Barker, Spurgeon Jones, J. D. Cobb, A. J. Floyd.

### For Road Commissioner

For first district, Ira Townsend, W. P. McAllister, D. B. McNeill; second district, J. P. Brown; third district, A. L. Bullock; fourth district, McP. McMillan; fifth district, Paisley McMillan; sixth district, J. A. Johnson, Z. T. McMillan.

If any candidate has filed due notice, etc., with the chairman but has been inadvertently omitted and can show that he has complied with the requirements as to registration, his name will be placed upon the ticket.

This the 1st day of Aug., 1912.  
S. B. McLean, Chairman.

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## LUMBER RIVER IMPROVEMENT.

**Government Appropriation For Survey With View to Making Lumber River Navigable—Means Much to This Section—Senator Simmons and Congressman Godwin are to be Congratulated.**

Friday's dispatches from Washington carried the information that the river and harbor appropriation bill had passed both Houses of Congress. The appropriations for rivers and harbors in North Carolina are very liberal.

The bill carries an appropriation for a government survey of Lumber river from its mouth to the Turnpike bridge, between Scotland and Hoke counties in this State, for the purpose of securing information as to the best methods and the approximate cost of making Lumber river navigable.

It will be recalled that Senator Simmons introduced a bill for this purpose some time ago and afterwards Congressman Godwin introduced a similar bill in the House. Mr. Godwin's bill passed the House first and was then amended and passed by Senator Simmons in the Senate.

There ought to be rejoicing throughout Robeson and adjoining counties, through which Lumber river flows, on account of the prospect of improving Lumber river because it means so much to this section.

The United States Government has pursued the policy of improving rivers in other parts of the country, wherever as much as six feet of water could be obtained. In fact, the bill above referred to carries an appropriation to secure a depth of six feet in Pamlico and Tar rivers in Congressman Small's district.

Lumber river is a much more important river than thousands of others which have been improved in various sections of the United States, but for some reason nothing has been done for its improvement since Hon. Alfred Rowland, member of Congress from this district, secured an appropriation for it about 25 years ago.

It now appears that the work will go forward to completion. After the surveys and estimates are in, it will be in order to enter upon the work of deepening, straightening the channel and removing all obstructions in order to obtain a proper depth.

This work means much to this section. Besides giving Lumberton, Maxton and other points in the county lower freight rates, probably as low as Fayetteville enjoys, it will result in draining the county. Mr. J. E. Purcell, of Red Springs, and other civil engineers who have studied the subject, say that Lumber river is the key to the drainage of Robeson county.

Take a map of the county and it will be seen that nearly all the swamps and other natural drainways empty into Lumber river.

The Republican party has spent billions of dollars on rivers and harbors in the North and West, but very little in the South. The last Democratic platform declared unmistakably for more liberal treatment for those projects throughout the county, including the South.

With the advent of the Democratic party into full control of the Government, the South may look forward to fairer treatment in the matter of appropriations.

Other sections of the country have enjoyed these things to the detriment of the South long enough. The South pays taxes and should be treated fairly.

Senator Simmons and Congressman Godwin are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts.

Democrats and progressives united again in the Senate on the 26th and passed the Democratic excise tax bill, extending the present tax on corporations, to the business of individuals, private firms and co-partnerships. Attached to the measure, also by the aid of the Republican votes, were amendments for the repeal of the Canadian reciprocity law and a fixing of a \$2 per ton tariff on print paper; and for the establishment of a permanent non-partisan tariff commission.

## LOCAL BRIEFS

—Middling cotton today, 12 cents.

—Miss Beatrice Bagley of Clayton will begin teaching the Long Branch school, Britt's township, district No. 1, Monday of next week.

—The Seaboard Air Line will run an excursion to Portsmouth and Norfolk Tuesday of next week. The fare from Lumberton will be \$4.50.

—Mrs. A. J. Tinkham went Tuesday to Fayetteville, where she is undergoing treatment at Highsmith's hospital. She was accompanied by Dr. T. C. Johnson.

—Prof. J. R. Poole, county superintendent of public instruction, is attending lectures this week in New York at Columbia University. He will return home Saturday.

—In the advertisement in Monday's Robesonian of a free round trip to Wilmington there were slight mistakes in the spelling of the names of three merchants—Messrs. Robert C. DeRosset, A. O. Schuster and C. D. Maffitt & Co.

—A petition is being circulated to have Mrs. R. M. Norment appointed postmistress to succeed her late husband and another petition is being circulated to have Mr. R. O. Edmund, who is assistant postmaster, appointed to fill this vacancy.

—Master Mack Fisher, one of The Robesonian's smart carrier boys, has been confined at the Thompson hospital since last Saturday with fever. Young Mack is a hustler whose sickness cripples The Robesonian and he just must get well soon.

—Mr. W. J. Mercer, of Howellsville township, was in town yesterday with the first sweet potatoes of the season. They were fine ones, just about a bushel he brought along to show that he had them. He dug them out of a patch three-quarters of an acre in size and he says that from that patch he expects to dig 300 bushels.

## East Lumberton Brevities.

Reported for The Robesonian.

Mrs. Frank Brisson is very sick, as is the case with many others. Mr. and Mrs. Craven West, who have been right sick, are improving. Miss Belle Cameron, who had been confined to her room for the past four months with rheumatic fever, is able to be out again. Mrs. Henry Taylor is on the sick list.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Fulton Phillips are visiting Mrs. Phillips' parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Todd of Bellamy.

The protracted meeting at Cedar Grove, in which Rev. D. L. Hewette of Shallotte did the preaching the past week, closed Sunday evening. Mr. Hewette greatly endeared himself to our people and every one was sorry when we came to the parting of the ways. Miss Belle Tyner of Raft Swamp visited the meeting and spent the greater part of two days with us. She delighted our people with a very excellent speech on woman's work and organized a Sunbeam Band with the following officers and leaders: Miss Emma Fleming, president; Miss Lucy Arnette, vice-president; Miss Eureka Pittman, secretary; Master Willy West, treasurer; Mrs. W. O. Blake and Miss Lizzie Arnette, leaders. Miss Tyner is doing a splendid work among the women and children of our association, and we heartily commend her to the churches.

Mr. E. C. Wooten of Clarkton rural route No. 3, was a very pleasant caller recently at the pastor's home.

The pastor enjoyed preaching Sunday morning and evening to splendid congregations. There were many visitors attendant upon both occasions, notable among whom was Mr. Oliver Nance of Rochelle, Ga.

We are delighted with our church at East Lumberton and rejoice in the progress she has made.

J. M. Fleming.

The Laurinburg Exchange says that Scotland has shipped 750 cars of cantaloupes grown in the county during the season which closed last week, the largest shipment from the county ever known.

Greensboro News, July 28: With a membership of 550, the Guilford County Simmons club was organized Friday night at an enthusiastic meeting held in the Guilford courthouse.