



"UPWARD AND ONWARD."

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1877

The MURFREESBORO ENQUIRER circulates in thirty-five counties and twelve States, and has a larger circulation in Bertie, Northampton, Hertford and Gates counties, than any paper published.

The North Carolina Medical Society meets at Salem on the 29th inst.

Read Maj. Moore's sketches of Hertford county. They are becoming more and more interesting each week.

The State Press Convention met Tuesday in Charlotte. We regret we were unable to be among them. The occasion will doubtless be one long to be remembered.

The Raleigh Observer is now engaged in publishing the histories of the leading schools of our State. In our next issue we will copy from it the history of the C. B. F. Institute.

HISTORICAL SKETCHES OF HERTFORD COUNTY.

BY J. W. MOORE.

Chapter XXXI.

In the year of our Lord, 1835 some notable events occurred in the history of the county. The village of Murfreesboro had greatly extended its limits and many worthy men had been added to the catalogue of its citizens. The Rev. Daniel Southall, who was the brother-in-law of Gov. Branch dwelt in the house now occupied by Mr. Spencer. His son, John W. Southall in the brick building now owned by Mr. E. C. Worrell across the street was James Morgan. Opposite, lived John Wheeler. Dr. O'Dwyer had two professional competitors in Drs. Barland and Lawrence O'Brigan. Patrick Brown and the two brothers, William and Joseph G. Rhea, were still prominent merchants. One hotel was kept by William Corbett, the other, known as Indian Queen, by Moses Clements, late an officer in the Virginia corps led by the distinguished Gen. Winfield Scott in the battle of Chippewa and Lundy's Lane. William H. Murfrees had removed to Tennessee and Thomas Manney was alone in his glory as a lawyer, Capt. Ben. Wynns had given up the sea and settled down to his fireside and matrimony. Col. James Brice, the last of his name in Hertford county, and Dr. Isaac Pipkin, who that year married the widow of Gen. Joseph F. Dickerson, must complete this list of ancient worthies, who have all passed from the land of the living.

On Feb. 25th the village was thrown into a fever of excitement over the fact that Gilbert Motier Marquis de Lafayette was in Suffolk on his way to visit the town. He was no ordinary guest. A half century before he had left his young wife and the splendors of court life in Paris, and had shed his blood in behalf of the struggling colonies. He had been a great and blameless actor since that time in the French Revolution. He had landed in New York Aug. 15th of the previous year. He had uncovered his grey hairs at the tomb of his dead friend at Mt. Vernon. He had been with the retired sage at Monticello, and as guest of the nation, was visiting each of the States.

A town meeting was called, in which Dr. Barland presided and William Rhea was secretary. A committee consisting of Col. Brickell, Dr. O'Bryan, Lewis M. Cowper and John W. Southall were to proceed at once to Sumerton, to meet Gen. Lafayette, to tender him a public dinner, and to invite and escort him to Murfreesboro. William Rhea, Dr. Borland, James Morgan J. G. Rhea and Dr. O'Dwyer were constituted the committee of arrangements as to the reception.

Feb. 29th, 1825 dawned dimly enough. All through the previous night the rain had fallen in incessant showers. The steaming moisture rose in a dense fog. Long after the darkness of night, had set in, Gen. Lafayette and his suite arrived. Mr. Manney in a speech of welcome greeted the distinguished visitor, who very graciously replied. He must have grown weary of his ovation, for so many had to be introduced and shake hands, it was eleven o'clock before they set down to supper. Large crowds assembled the next day. At ten o'clock on Monday he started for Northampton Court. There he was greeted by Chief Justice Taylor. He met and embraced his old comrade Col. William Polk. Thus he passed from state to state in one continuous round of reverent greeting from the American people. On Sept. 7th after Congress had presented him with two hundred thousand dollars and twenty-three thousand acres of public land in Florida, he sailed home in the new frigate, Brandywine. With rare delicacy the Government had named her in honor of the first battle in which he participated in America; and in which engagement he was severely wounded.

Early in March the fashionable people of Eastern North Carolina were greatly excited by the approaching nuptials of Mr. Govan, a member of Congress from South Carolina who was to wed the fair Mary Hugh Jones, a great belle and heiress in Northampton. On the evening of March 8th, Mrs. Collins, the wife of Capt. Joshua Collins, of Edenton, with her two daughters arrived with a coach and four

on her way to the wedding. On the next day the bridegroom, accompanied by Gov. McDuffie of South Carolina and Mr. Archer also a prominent representative from Virginia, reached Murfreesboro. Big weddings were still in vogue, and Hertford had recently witnessed the marriage of Capt. John Jones, of Virginia to Esther Cotton, the widow of the late James W. Moore. Capt. Jones was the cousin of Willie and Gen. Allen Jones, and was an officer in the Virginia Continental Line during the Revolution. He lived at a noble country seat near Lawrencetown in Brunswick county, and had much of the courtliness of his N. C. kinsman, Mrs. Jones' sister, the widow Johnston, had some years before married her cousin Cornelius Moore, of Rich Square.

On June 5th the Rev. Daniel Southall preached the funeral sermon of Gen. Tom. Wynns. This distinguished public servant had been for eight years, living in retirement at Barfields. His wife had preceded him to the grave and he was buried by her side. Henry Mauney, her brother was then owner of the old family homestead, where their remains were deposited.

A great sensation in the political world followed the election by the House of Representatives of John Quincy Adams to the Presidency of the United States. Gen. Andrew Jackson had received a plurality of the electoral vote, but was defeated by the accession of Mr. Clay and his friends to the successful candidate. It aroused much indignation. John Randolph of Roanoke with his accustomed bitterness denounced the election as a coalition between the Black Leg and the Puritan. The wronged and indignant Kentuckian held him responsible and a duel was the consequence.

Henry Clay was no doubt conscientious in his policy, but it resulted in his estrangement from the Democratic party, he had so nobly led for years past in the House of Representatives. He alone of those connected, sustained himself before the constituents. Every other Southern member of Congress, who supported Mr. Adams was remanded to private life.

Hertford county returned James Copeland to the Senate and John Vann and Isaac Carter to the House in the General Assembly of that year (1825). Bartlett Yancy again presided in the upper House and John Stantly in the other. During this session and a portion of the next the able member of Craven continued in this exalted position. He was then stricken with paralysis and disabled from all future usefulness. The taint of bloodshed on the human soul is a fearful penalty to gratified revenge. When the first Gov. Spaight was yet warm in his grave, in a letter to Gov. Williams, John Stantly had been prophetic, when he said, he should not cease to deplore the fatal consequences of that duel. He was forgiven and greatly honored, but never forgot his dead victim.

Several new men destined to prominence and usefulness had appeared recently in public life. Another Richard Dobbs Spaight was a member from Craven; and had inherited many of the shining qualities in the character of his famous father. The sagacious and successful John Motley Morehead of Guilford, initiated movements that were to bring him fame and fortune. A rugged and massive intelligence was observable in young Alfred Dockery of Richmond, Modesty of demeanor and great perspicuity of statement, marked William H. Battle, then member for Franklin. A fluent elocution and evidences of legal ability were seen in John Lancaster Bailey commoner for Pasquotank. But greater and uglier than any of these was the learned, eloquent and versatile David L. Swain the self-made and glorious son of Buncombe. Long life, unceasing service and immortal fame were to be the germs of this young and unfriended mountaineer.

Chapter XXXII.

The administration of John Quincy Adams was the signal for the return of much of the party strife, which had characterized the rule of the second President of the United States. Mr. Adams had been elected as a Republican, but the opposition to his administration was composed exclusively of the great leaders of that party. All of the Federalists were his supporters. In North Carolina they did not assume this unpopular name, but political divisions consisted of Jackson and anti-Jackson men. Parties were not yet known as Whigs and Democrats; but mature Adams' men, as a general rule, in a few years all became members of the Whig party.

In 1825 Lemuel Sawyer, who had been beaten two years before by Alfred M. Gatling of Gates, once more became the representative of the Edenton Congressional district. Gatling in turn was defeated and remanded to private life. Col. Sawyer was something of a genius and sometimes wrote dramas that were objectionable on the score of morality. Had John Dennis and other wits of the Restoration been alive, they might have accused him of reproducing their smut as well as stealing their thunder. He was a sprightly and versatile man; and to occasional hippochondria added an extraordinary love of Washington city. When two years later he was defeated by William B. Shepherd, he never returned to North Carolina, but remained until his death in the Federal capital.

In 1827 Henry Long, who occasionally resided at Hill's Ferry in Manney's Neck, returned to his residence in Murfreesboro. He was much respected for the smoothness of temper and many virtues as a man. He was eccentric as a lawyer, but a favorite with the members of the bar. Many stories of his absence of mind are still remembered. He married the only daughter of the late popular and polished Harry Hill. In Manney's Neck likewise dwelt Robert Nicholson the originator of the excellent

and ancient academy at Buckhorn. He opened this school as early as 1820, and for many years conducted its exercises even after he had become wealthy by marriage. He was succeeded by a man named Dunbar, who presided over its fortunes until the advent of Mr. Warner. The building used for school purposes in Nicholson's time was not located immediately at Buckhorn chapel but was in the same neighborhood.

Manney's Neck was at that date peopled by some cultivated and many worthy men. Day Ridley after distinguished service in the Revolution, had been long in his grave, but his virtues had abundant continuation in the person of his son, Timothy Ridley. He was a most amiable and excellent man, and was the chairman of the County court and was justly revered for the kindness and benignity of his life. His nearest neighbors were Richard G. Cowper, then sheriff of the county, John Waddell, Capt. Jethro Darden, and Tighman D. Vann. Jacob Hare, James Worrell, Elisha Brett and Walter Myrick dwelt nearer the Virginia line.

Winton had lost Levin Duers and Garrison Smith out John A. Anderson had married the daughter of the former, and was a resident of the village. He was like Willie Jones in his aversion to office-holding. No man in America felt a deeper interest in political movements, but he was never a candidate for popular favors. He succeeded Timothy Ridley as chairman of the county court and was a member of one or more of the governor's councils but his wealth and influence were invariably given in elections to his friends. Lewis M. Cowper became the clerk of the County Court as far back as 1821. He was then a young man. For a half century he retained that position. In his prime he was unsurpassed in clerical abilities and unvarying kindness of manner. His cheerful and courteous were never for a moment was laid aside, and through a long life he was ever a favorite with our people.

Near Winton dwelt Col. Pleasant Jordan, Six miles from him lived James Riddick. Farther east was William Slaughter, Miles H. Jernigan and Abram Thomas. These were all active and useful citizens near the court house. In Mill Neck, Col. Starkey Sharpe, his nephews Starkey J. Harrell and John Winborne were leading men. The village of Harrelville commemorates the name of Abner Harrel, who in addition to his agricultural interest, added large and successful mercantile operations. He was one of the founders and the main support of the Bethel Methodist Episcopal church, through many years. His large charities, his unbroken kindness and unsuspected honesty were alike honorable to him and beneficial to the community in which he lived. He was a small man physically, but his uncommon energy made him a public benefactor through the greater portion of a century. Watson Lewis and Capt. Spencer Daniel were also prominent residents of this region.

In 1826 Elisha Hunter Sharpe defeated James Copeland for the Senate. Mr. Sharpe was the eldest son of Jacob Sharpe, whose father married Polly Moore, the sister of James Moore of St. John's. Hunter Sharpe was largely indebted to his uncle for much of his position, for no man in our history has been more highly respected for his many virtues than the first Col. Starkey Sharpe. He was rich but unbending in his integrity. He was never married and his nephews were in consequence, the recipients of large bounties at his hands. The most intellectual of these was Starkey Sharpe Harrell, who was noted for his political knowledge and unbroken adherence to the Democratic party. He was the brother of Mrs. Gordon, of Murfreesboro, who was the grandmother of William N. H. Smith, at present the leading lawyer of North Carolina, and was also the grandfather of Thomas R. Jernigan, late our Senator, who has inherited many of his excellencies of character.

Gen. Montgomery and Leonard Martin were the same year chosen members of the house of Commons. Mr. Martin had recently become a citizen of the county. He had previously resided in Pasquotank and had frequently represented that constituency in the Legislature. This was his only service to Hertford county and he died in a short while thereafter at his residence in Winton.

The Legislature elected James Ireddell, of Chowan, governor. Bartlett Yancey for the last time presided as speaker of the Senate. Thomas Settle of Rockingham, was chosen Speaker of the House. Richard M. Pearson, of Rowan then first made his appearance in the political world. A great jurist was foreshadowed in the small, eagle-eyed young lawyer, and near him sat a fit compeer, in David Franklin Caldwell, the stern and beetle-browed member for Ireddell. William D. Moseley of Lenoir and Samuel T. Sawyer of Chowan were, soon to become distinguished, but none of these compared in eloquence to the fiery and erratic Hugh McQueen of Chatham. Alas! for the consuming fire of a genius which perishes in the redundancy of its own. Hugh McQueen possessed talents and opportunities which made him prominent in North Carolina: under wiser guidance they might have well culminated in national and immortal honors.

In the second year of his administration, on the fifth anniversary of the national independence, John Adams died at his home in Massachusetts. His long rivalry with Jefferson embittered his dying thoughts, his last words were "Jefferson still lives." He was mistaken. Far away in his mountain home, the form of the great Virginian was already stiffened in death. They had both grown immortal for the deed of 1776. They had long headed the opposing parties of the nation and now on the recurrence of the proudest day of their lives they had simultaneously departed. How are the mighty fallen and the weapons of war perished! (To be continued)

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Miscellaneous Advertisements. NEW BOOKS FROM THE PRESS OF J. B. LIPPINCOTT & Co. THE CENTURY: ITS FRUITS AND ITS FESTIVAL. Being a History and Description of the Centennial Exhibition, with a Preliminary Outline of Modern Progress. By Edward C. Bruce. Profusely and Handsomely Illustrated. 8vo. Extra cloth, gilt, \$3.00.

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