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By GEORGE HOWARD, JR.

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POLITICAL.

From the Young Hickory.

THE CHARGE OF TORYISM.

An immense mass meeting of the Democracy of the Old North State, was held at Mecklenburg, on the 23d ult., at which upwards of ten thousand of her hardy yeomanry were present. The assemblage was addressed in a most eloquent and impressive manner by Hon. George C. Dromgoole of Virginia, and Hon. R. M. Saunders. The latter gentleman went into a thorough and searching investigation of the Whig charge of Toryism against Capt. Ezekiel Polk, and proved its utter falsity. We copy from the "Jeffersonian" the remarks of Gen. Saunders.

"I come now to speak of a matter connected with the family history of Col. Polk, a matter to which I refer with pride, as it enables me to remove a foul slander which our opponents have sought to fix upon the character and good name of a patriot and soldier of the Revolution. This duty I discharge with the more pleasure, as those who have revived this foul slander have made a reference to some remarks of mine in the Baltimore Convention, as the pretence for the revival of their base charge. When I referred to the fame of Col. Polk, being born in the county of Mecklenburg, where, in May, 1775, had first been proclaimed the Declaration of Independence, that he was a descendant of those who had participated in that glorious and daring act, I did so more with the view of giving eclat to a transaction of which our State had been and still is justly proud, than of adding any thing to the merits and claims of Col. Polk; for with us nothing is more true than the couplet of the poet:

"Honor and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part—there all the honor lies."

Little did I think, by a reference to this act, that I was giving our opponents any ground for reviving a charge which it seemed they started when Col. Polk was first a candidate for Governor in the State of Tennessee. But I proceed to the charge and the proof. It was first charged that Samuel Polk, the father of James K. Polk, was a Tory. This charge was met with the fact that Samuel Polk was a boy at the close of the Revolution—that he had been a Republican and supporter of Mr. Jefferson in 1800, and had lived and died with the reputation of an honest man and faithful citizen. The charge is next made against the grandfather, Ezekiel Polk, long since gathered to the grave of his Revolutionary associates. But thanks be to a kind Providence, there still survives the proof to rescue the name of the soldier from the foul aspersion of the political slanderer. We are taught even by the heathen—*"de mortuis nil nisi bonum"*—but these political vultures of our day have less charity than the heathens, and gladly devour the character of the dead to answer the unwholesome purposes of the living. I shall not trouble you with a reference to what has been offered in support of this charge, further than to say the affidavit of the old man relied upon, does not sustain the charge of toryism. Asking protection of the British

owner for wife, children, and property against the savage assaults, and the blood-thirsty ravages of the Tories themselves, was certainly not taking sides against the country. I rely not upon the insufficiency of the proof in support of the charge, but proceed to offer the conclusive and triumphant testimony in refutation. The first proof to which I refer is the affidavit of Captain James Jack, taken in 1813, when there existed no motive for misrepresentation, and which was taken at the time for the purpose of perpetuating the testimony in support of the fact of the Declaration of Independence of 20th May, 1775. Capt. Jack not only sustained through life a fair character, but this affidavit was originally published under the authority of the General Assembly of the State, and is the highest evidence in support of the authenticity of the Declaration. I trust no one having any regard for the honor and character of the State will dare impeach the strongest link in the chain of proof in support of our claim to being the first to throw off the British yoke, and proclaim our independence as a nation. I read from the printed docu-

ment, page 16, letter C, with certificate annexed.

The next proof I offer, is a commission of Ezekiel Polk, of a Captain of Rangers, as granted by the civil authorities of South Carolina, in pursuance of resolutions of the Provincial Congress. The authenticity of this document is beyond question; and it establishes the fact of Capt. Polk's feelings of that day, as one of the principal duties enjoined upon him in his command of the Rangers, was the destruction of the Tories. It shows the confidence reposed in him as an enemy of the very band with which he is now accused of associating. Thirdly, is the letter of the eldest son of Ezekiel Polk, who had preserved the original commission granted his father, as a sort of family relic; not, as he supposed, to save the character of his venerated parent from the tongue of the slanderer, but as a proud testimonial of the patriotism of his ancestor. Fourthly, the affidavit of Geo. Alexander, who speaks from personal knowledge, and who, upon his oath, pronounces the charge to be false. As to the protection to which he speaks, those who know any thing of the ravages which followed the downfall of Charleston, when the enemy overrun the country with the sword of death and the torch of conflagration, will not be surprised that one who had been so active in rousing the Tories should have been forced, for a time, to save his wife, children, and property, from an enemy more cruel and vindictive, than the savage himself. If this made Capt. Polk a Tory, so was the brave and gallant Col. Hayne a Tory. He fell a victim and a martyr to British cruelty as a captive, after having been forced to entreat their protection, when every thing was gloom and despondency. I now turn in support of this proof to my venerated friend by my side, Gen. McLeary, now more than 80 years old, but of sound and accurate memory, who himself was an actor in the Revolution; was one who met Cornwallis as he marched through this county, and aided in capturing the provisions intended for the support of his army—a worthy citizen of high character, whom you have often honored as your Senator in your State Legislature. I am authorized by him to say, which I now repeat in his presence, and in your hearing, that he knew Capt. Ezekiel Polk during and after the close of the Revolution—that he then knew him as an active Whig—that he was at all times esteemed and respected as such, and that he never heard him charged as being a Tory, until he saw the charge in the dirty sheet called the *Charlotte Journal*, printed in this town. I ask you, then, whom you will believe; this venerated man, whom you have at all times delighted to honor, or the foul tongue of the slanderer? And here I leave the proof, with the fact that Ezekiel Polk, like Colonel William Polk, and others of his family, was at all times after the close of the Revolution esteemed and respected in this county of his residence as a soldier and a patriot.

I come now, fellow-citizens, to speak of another ancestor of Col. Polk, the grandfather on the maternal side of his family—one whose name the tongue of slander has not as yet dared to assail. And as our opponents claim to hold in such high respect the soldiers of the Revolution, it is to be hoped they will admit our candidate was entitled to the honor of bearing the name of as true a Whig as existed in the days that tried men's souls. I read the statement of David Dobbins, a soldier of the Revolution, as to the services of Capt. James Knox, the grandfather of Col. Polk on the mother's side, whose name he bears. Others here recollect Capt. Knox, and stand ready to confirm the statement of Dobbins, but confirmation is not deemed necessary, as none will be daring enough to gainsay it. I might add the name and services of Gillespie to establish the claim of Col. Polk's ancestors to the honor of Revolutionary patriots, but I forbear, and will only add, as his grandfather, an honest blacksmith, contributed his services in establishing our independence, and the happy name of government under which we now live, so let it be our pride as Democrats, and as independent voters, to contribute our mite in honoring the name of the ancestors, by placing JAMES KNOX POLK in the proudest station of the world. And so, Democrats, let it be. [Received with great applause and the liveliest approbation.]

EVIDENCE SUBMITTED BY GEN. SAUNDERS.

Capt. Jack's Certificate.

As taken from the documents as published under the order of General Assembly, at the session of 1830-'31.—Page 16, letter C.

"Having seen in the newspapers some pieces respecting the declaration of independence by the people of Mecklenburg county, in the State of North Carolina, in May, 1775, and being solicited to state what I know of the transaction, I would observe, that for some time previous to

and at the time those resolutions were agreed upon, I resided in the town of Charlotte, Mecklenburg county, was privy to a number of meetings of some of the most influential and leading characters of that county on the subject, before the final adoption of the resolutions, and at the time they were adopted. Among those who appeared to take the lead, may be mentioned Hezekiah Alexander, who generally acted as chairman, John McKnitt Alexander, as secretary, Abraham Alexander, Adam Alexander, Major John Davidson, Colonel THOMAS POLK, EZEKIEL POLK, Doctor Ephraim Brevard, Samuel Martin, Duncan Ocheltree, William Willson, Robert Irvin.

When the resolutions were finally agreed on, they were publicly proclaimed from the court-house door, in the town of Charlotte, and received with every demonstration of joy by the inhabitants.

"I was then solicited to be the bearer of the proceedings to Congress. I set out the following month, (say June,) and in passing through Salisbury, the general court was sitting; at the request of the court I handed a copy of the resolutions to Colonel Kennon, an attorney, and they were read aloud in open court. Major William Davidson, and Mr. Avery, an attorney, called on me at my lodgings the evening after, and observed, they had heard of but one person, (a Mr. Beard,) but approved of them.

"I then proceeded on to Philadelphia, and delivered the Mecklenburg declaration of independence, of May, 1775, to Richard Caswell and William Hooper, the delegates to Congress from the State of North Carolina.

"I am now in the eighty-eighth year of my age, residing in the county of Elbert, in the State of Georgia. I was in the revolutionary war, from the commencement to the close.

"I would further observe, that the Reverend Francis Cummins, a Presbyterian clergyman, of Greene county, in this State, was a student in the town of Charlotte at the time of the adoption of the resolutions, and is as well, or perhaps better acquainted with the proceedings at that time, than any man now living.

"Colonel William Polk, of Raleigh, in North Carolina, was living with his father, Thomas, in Charlotte, at the time I have been speaking of, and although then too young to be forward in the business, yet the leading circumstances I have related cannot have escaped his recollection.

JAMES JACK.

Signed this 7th of December 1819, in presence of

JOE WESTON, C. C. O.
JAMES OLIVER, Att. at Law.

The following is a literal and true copy of the original commission of Capt. Ezekiel Polk, of the Revolution, viz:

South Carolina.

In pursuance of the resolutions of the Provincial Congress, we do hereby certify that EZEKIEL POLK, esq., is second Captain in the Regiment of Rangers in the Provincial service.

Dated the eighteenth day of June, 1775.

WM. WILLIAMSON,
J. HARRIS,
THOMAS BEE,
CHAS. PINCNEY,
ARTHUR MIDDLETON,
M. BREWTON,
THOS. HEYWARD, JR.
WM. H. DRAYTON,
JAMES PARSONS,
HENRY LAWRENCE,
RAWS. LOWNDES,
THOS. FERGISON,
BENJ. ELLIOT.

The following is a copy of a letter of William Polk, now a citizen of Arkansas. He is about seventy years old, and is the eldest surviving son of Capt. Ezekiel Polk:

Sept. 15, 1840.

Dear Sir: Yours of August 27 has come to hand this day, and I forthwith comply with your request. The commission which Maj. Bills referred you to, in my hands, I have preserved, and now enclose it herein, (after taking a copy of it,) and forward it to you. I cannot believe for a moment that such malignant, fabricated calumnies, is, or ever will be, believed. Knowing, as I do, the high standing of our father amongst the other soldiers of the Revolution, during the whole of his residence in North Carolina. And there is no man at this time more venerated than old Capt. Ezekiel Polk, both for his patriotism, unwavering Democratic principles, his talents, and stern integrity. I think it was near the close of the Revolution that he and Col. William Polk obtained a Colonel's commission, (both about the same time,) which title he ever after bore. With high respect, yours,

WILL. POLK.

The following is a literal and true copy of Capt. David Dobbins' statement, a high

ly and respected soldier of the Revolution, who at the period of his death and for many years previous, received a pension from the Government:

State of Kentucky, Graves County.

I, David Dobbins, a citizen of Maury County, from about the year 1806, up to Nov. 1840, when I removed to this State, do hereby certify that I was during the Revolutionary war a citizen of North Carolina, Rowan county:—I served as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was engaged in active service three months in 1775, (in the snow campaign) as a private in Capt. Cowen's company, and Col. Lock's Regiment, under Gen. Rutherford, who was commander in that campaign. I also served three months in 1776 against the Cherokee Indians, in Capt. Bill's company, Col. Lock's Regiment and under Gen. Rutherford commander. In the spring of 1777, I served three months under the same officers—also in the fall of the same year I commenced serving a nine months campaign in the regular service, in which I acted as Orderly Sergeant in Capt. Cowen's company, Colonel Thaxton's Regiment, General Davidson commander, which campaign terminated in 1778. In 1769 I served three months in South Carolina as a private in the horse company of Capt. Simmons, under Maj. Mabury, commander. In 1781, I served ten months as Lieutenant in Capt. Alexander's Horse Company, and Col. Wade Hampton's Regiment under Gen. Sumpter commander. I do further certify, that I was engaged in the battle of Saluda against the Indians and Seofelites, also Tories. In the snow campaign I was also engaged in several skirmishes. During the campaign against the Cherokees in 1776,—in 1778, I was engaged in several skirmishes and in the battle of Stone—in 1779 I was engaged in several skirmishes, and in 1781, in the siege of ninety-six, in the battle of Eutaw Springs, and at the taking of several British forts, &c. I do further certify that I was well acquainted with Capt. James Knox (of Rowan county at the commencement of the war, and afterwards of Mecklenburg, North Carolina) who was the grandfather on the maternal side of James Knox Polk, the present Governor of Tennessee. I know that Captain James Knox was as good and true a Whig of the Revolution as breathed, and was actively engaged in the snow campaign; he was Captain of a militia company, and I believe was a brave, patriotic and true soldier in the service of his country during the Revolutionary war. Capt. Knox was a blacksmith by trade. He was by all who knew him esteemed an excellent officer, a gallant soldier and an honest man. Capt. Knox had six brothers who were also engaged in the Revolutionary war, and were all esteemed firm patriots, excellent soldiers and honest men. One of them served as Captain in the regular service for at least two years, and was under Gen. Washington in the battles of Germantown, Brandywine, &c.

Signed, DAVID DOBBINS."

Graves County, Kentucky.

I do hereby certify that David Dobbins this day personally appeared before me, James K. Farr, a Justice of the Peace for the said county; and was sworn that the above certificate was true. Given under my hand this 2d day of April, 1841. (Signed) J. K. FARR, J. P. I, John Anderson, Clerk of the County Court of Graves County in the State of Kentucky, do hereby certify that J. K. Farr, whose name is signed to the foregoing certificate, is now and was at the time of signing the same, a Justice of the Peace for the County and State aforesaid. Duly commissioned and qualified as such, and authorized to administer oaths. In testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed [L. S.] my seal of office, this 3d day April, 1841. JNO. ANDERSON. The following is a true copy of the statement of George Alexander, viz:

Panola County, Miss. March 25, 1840.

Statement of George Alexander concerning the life and character of the late Col. Ezekiel Polk, formerly of Mecklenburg county, North Carolina, during the Revolutionary war:

I was acquainted with Col. Ezekiel Polk from the time he came to Mecklenburg county from South Carolina. I always understood that he was an officer in the South Carolina Rangers, together with Col. Wm. Polk, who was an officer under his uncle Ezekiel Polk. This regiment of rangers performed a campaign and dispersed the Tories at Rayburn's Creek, where Col. Wm. Polk was wounded. This was called the snow campaign. After this, William Polk (as soon as he could be brought with safety, not having recovered from his wounds) removed to Mecklenburg county, N. Carolina, I think about the year 1778, where my personal acquaintance commenced with him, it being also an intimate one. From my knowledge, he stood high among the citizens of Mecklenburg coun-

ty. He then farmed in Mecklenburg county and accumulated property there. When Cornwallis overran the country in 1780 and came to Charlotte, after Gates' defeat there were no regular organized troops in the field, and the country was overrun, it was my understanding that then, in order to save his property from destruction, he, together with others, took protection from Cornwallis. When Cornwallis left Charlotte for the South he, Ezekiel Polk, removed his property from Cornwallis' protection, a part of which was taken by Cornwallis' troops, when he Ezekiel Polk, was crossing the Yadkin. He went from there to Pennsylvania and returned in the summer of 1781. That he was a Tory, or acted any wise for, or with the British, I consider a slander against him and to be false. He stood high among the citizens of Mecklenburg county. (Signed) GEORGE ALEXANDER.

Fiendish Act.—The Richmond Star says that the train between Weldon and Petersburg on Thursday night, when near Pleasant Hill P. O., met an obstruction upon the rails in the shape of a large sill, placed there by some villain, which threw off the engine, tender and mail car, into the ditch. On Saturday evening while leaving Weldon, another sill was found upon the track, about two hundred yards from the depot, but fortunately, the slow rate at which the engine was moving prevented any serious damage.

Giant.—They are growing a giant in Coxackie, in New York, who promises to overtop all competition in this country or Europe. His name is Nathan Lampman, and he is sixteen years old, weighing 198 pounds, standing at this time 7 feet 1 inch in height, and growing "like mad." He is described by Dr. Smith as "a great tall, awkward, good natured, sixteen year old boy." He is believed already to have the longest legs on the continent, and has actually grown nine inches the last year. He is an ambitious youth, and has a great desire to outgrow all creation; an aspiration likely to be reached, for he has good health and good habits. The doctor thinks he will reach at least another foot, and on the whole we have a very good prospect of raising an "Empire" Giant.

An innocent man hung by a Mob.—Under this caption the Paris (Mo.) Mercury relates some curious particulars connected with mob law. Some years since, Mr. James Barnes, son of Aquilla Barnes of Missouri, was hung by a mob in Arkansas, because he was suspected of having murdered the "Wright family," in one of the counties of that State. Barnes to the very last asserted his innocence, but the mob were inexorable, and he was hanged by them. It now appears from a statement in the Van Buren (Arkansas) Intelligencer, that the real murderers have been found, and are in confinement at Fayetteville in that State. There are three of them, by the names of Star and Reese, and they are said to have frequently boasted of the crime: they will be convicted, it is said, on the testimony of many witnesses to these confessions. But their conviction will not restore the intrepid man to life, nor save his murderers from the stings of remorse for so cruel an act. The editor of the Mercury says that the news of Barnes' innocence is truly gratifying to him—"for we personally knew Aquilla Barnes, and the Barnes family, twenty-six years ago, at Old Franklin, Howard county, Missouri. His father, grandfather, and uncles were men of high standing and respectability, many of them exemplary members of the church of Jesus Christ. How painful it must have been to his father and mother, the wife of his bosom, with her helpless babes, and his relatives, to be thus deprived of his society; and to think, too, that a mob hung him without judge or jury, under the charge of murder—thus blasting his fame, and putting a stain upon his poor little children, his unoffending wife his aged father and mother, together with his brothers and sisters, his friends and relatives.—St. Louis (Mo.) Republican.

Returning.—The St. Louis Republican mentions the arrival at that city of a steamboat from St. Joseph's Mo. having on board two hundred passengers—many of whom were driven from their homes by the flood, and are returning to the old States, from which they originally emigrated; many of them having lost all their property.

Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.—Nett increase in 1843, 102,821. Whole number of communicants in the United States, at the present time, 1,171,356. It is said that this is more than all the Baptists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians, united.

Mr. Crane, of Newark, N. J., has invented a new clock, which will run 12 months without winding.