

MILITARY CAREER OF MARSHALL D. CRATON

Brilliant Future of Rutherfordton Man, One-Time Cadet at West Point and Colonel in Confederate Army, Cut Short By Death.

By CLARENCE GRIFFIN.

Among the hundreds of Rutherford County men whose names are written high on the rosters of fame, none shine with more brilliance, among the immortals of the God of Mars than that of Colonel Marshall D. Craton. As a product of the United States Military Academy, at West Point, he early assumed a place of leadership in the Confederate army. His early training and education fitted him admirably for a high position in the business world which would have surely been his had not death cut short his career in the very bloom of young manhood.

Col. Marshall Craton came of a distinguished family. His father, Col. Isaac Craton, was born in Guilford county, and came to Rutherford

county in 1808. He served with distinction as an officer in the War of 1812, and upon his return to Rutherfordton was admitted to the bar to practice law. He was very successful in this vocation, and served for several years before his death as a district solicitor. He married a daughter of David and Mary (Kerr) Miller. He was a brother-in-law of Col. Theodoric F. Birchett. In 1819 he was appointed clerk of the court of pleas and quarter sessions, a position which he held until his death in April 1831. His sudden departure was an event which was lamented over the entire county.

Col. Marshall D. Craton, at the time of his father's death, was only two years old. Four other brothers and sisters were left to provide for and educate. Little is known of his early life. His grandfather, David Miller, became his guardian later in life, and it must be assumed that his mother and grandfather spared no efforts in educating him as well as his brothers and sisters. At the tender age of seventeen years he secured an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, the appointment being secured through Congressman James Graham, of Rutherfordton, a staunch Whig friend of Col. Marshall Craton's father.

In the latter part of June, 1846, young Craton left Rutherfordton with the tender advice and benediction of his grandfather, David Miller, and started on his long journey to West Point. The Miller household had been preparing for a month or longer in anticipation of this event, and it was with regret and sadness that they bid this youngest grandson good-bye. He arrived at West Point, and was officially admitted on July 1, 1846, as a cadet. There he made a record that was all that could be desired by his fond grandfather. His grades were of the highest, with the exception of mathematics. He remained there only a year, however, resigning on June 26, 1847.

He returned to Rutherfordton, and later went to Goldsboro, N. C., where he engaged in business. While residing in that town he married a Miss Washington.

In 1861 the entire country was permeated with the war fever. Immediately upon the secession of the state a volunteer company of soldiers was raised in Goldsboro, and Marshall Craton was elected to command as captain in deference to his West Point training. This company later became Company A, of the 27th Regiment. His commission as captain of that command was dated April 15, 1861. Just seven months later, November 8, 1861, he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the 35th Regiment. His record as captain, the exacting military discipline required by him, and stern, uncompromising obedience as he had learned it at West Point featured his command of the company and placed him on the list for prompt promotion. He resigned his command as lieutenant-colonel on April 10, 1862 in order to accept a promotion as colonel of the Fiftieth Regiment. His commission as colonel was dated April 15, 1862. Here the same stern discipline prevailed. His health began to fail. The continual exposure to the elements weakened his already frail constitution, and on December 1, 1862, he resigned and returned to his wife and small daughter, Dixie, in Goldsboro. However, this action came too late. His body was not able to withstand the ravages of exposure encountered on the battlefield, and a short time later he passed away. His body was returned to Rutherfordton and was interred in a grave in the Craton family plot in the Rutherfordton cemetery. His last resting place was unmarked until a few years ago. The Davis-Dickerson-Mills chapter, U. D. C., has placed a tiny marble slab at the head of this brave soldier's grave, which bears the simple inscription "Col. M. D. Craton."

One sister of Col. Craton married the late Capt. George H. Mills. The late Dr. J. M. Craton, of Rutherfordton, was a brother of Col. Craton.

O. MAX GARDNER MAY RUN LATER FOR LEGISLATURE

Raleigh, Feb. 14.—Governor Gardner is pushing away the crown of the vice presidency of the United States, which his friends are seeking to offer him and in doing so expresses the feeling that he can best serve his State as a member of the General Assembly. Some of his friends see in his statement a desire of the chief executive to continue his public career, but in the humble position of one of the 170 members of the State law-making body.

Referring to recent publicity that his friends were promoting him for the vice presidency, he issued a statement that he was not a candidate for any office and has no part in any plan designed to encourage such a movement.

"My sole interest in public affairs is to give North Carolina the best possible administration in this critical period of which I am capable," said Governor Gardner. "I really feel that if I had political ambitions I could possibly render greater service to my State as a member of the General Assembly than in any other office within the range of my opportunities for public service," the chief executive said.

RIVERSIDE NEWS

Harris, R-1, Feb. 16.—Preaching services will be held at Riverside Baptist church next Sunday evening. Everybody is urged to come.

Messrs J. E. and John Padgett and Earl Randall visited Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Padgett Wednesday night. Mrs. M. D. Collins is still on the sick list, we are sorry to note.

Mr. Earl Randall, of Polk county is spending this week with his cousin, Mr. John Padgett.

Miss Aby Collins spent Monday afternoon with Rev. and Mrs. T. C. Harris.

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Hawkins entertained with a cotton picking Thursday night. Among those present were: Misses Lucy and Minerva Alexander, Aby Collins, Lucy and Mallie Padgett, Lela Bryant, Messrs Aldo Hawkins, John Padgett, Boyd Collins, Elias and Major Alexander, Earl Randall, Jih McCraw, Romeo Price, Riley Padgett, Jack Gosey, George and Howard Painter, Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Splawn, Mrs. Maggie Bryant and Maggie Gosey. All reported a fine time.

Mr. Earl Randall Miss Lucy Padgett and Mrs. C. B. Bryant was in town Wednesday morning.

Messrs C. M. Harris and T. E. Randall visited at Rev. and Mrs. T. C. Harris's Thursday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gault have moved to Henrietta.

Mr. R. B. Powell and Joe Amos was in town Thursday evening on business.

Mr. T. E. Randall spent a short while with Mr. J. E. Padgett Thursday night.

Mr. Blease Collins spent last week with friends and relatives near Chesnee.

Mrs. B. D. Powell and little son, also Mr. Lum McDaniel spent one day last week with Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Collins.

Miss Mamie Hawkins is ill at this writing, we hope her a speedy recovery.

Mr. Crawford Spake of Chesnee, spent the week-end with his uncle, Mr. M. D. Collins and family.

Mr. Wade Linder visited Rev. T. C. Harris, Saturday afternoon.

Mrs. R. B. Powell visited Mrs. M. D. Collins one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Padgett and little son, Augustus, spent Saturday with Mrs. Francis Hicks, of Henrietta.

Mr. Lee Melton and family of Ellenboro, spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Powell.

Miss Ada McCraw visited Mrs. Wade Linder on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. J. E. Padgett is spending some time with relatives in Cowpens, S. C.

Miss Eula Cochran is spending some time with Mr. and Mrs. Lee Melton.

Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Splawn and son, Richard, visited Mrs. Ida Spake of Alexander.

Mrs. R. B. Parnell and daughter, Ida and Eula also Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Splawn and son Richard visited Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gault Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Hawkins visited Mr. J. E. Padgett and family Sunday night.

SEE H. L. Kanipe for your automobile work, welding, brazing, rebuilding and charging batteries.

Four-H Club Work Factor In Farming

The 26,638 rural boys and girls enrolled in the 4-H clubs organized and conducted by extension workers of State college, played a commendable share in improving acre yields of food and feed crops and in handling livestock for better profits last year.

L. R. Harrill, state club leader, says for example, that there were 1,461 club members with corn projects. Of this number 1,001 members completed their work and made reports. These boys and girls grew 1203 acres of corn producing 49,467 bushels or an average yield of 49.4 bushels an acre and compared to the 20.9 average acre yield for the State as a whole.

The average yield of wheat grown by 29 club members was 16.8 bushels compared with a State average of 12.5 bushels an acre. The average yield per acre of Irish potatoes grown by 127 members reporting was 141 bushels as compared with the state average of 98. The average acre yield of wheat potatoes grown by 79 club members reporting was 159 bushels an acre compared with the state average of 97 bushels. With cotton, 322 club members produced an average yield of 675 pounds of lint on acre as compared with an average for the state last year of 233 pounds.

Mr. Harrill is especially pleased with the increased interest in the livestock clubs. He says 1040 club members were enrolled in dairy calf work last year with 802 members completing their projects. These boys and girls had 802 animals. There were also 1200 club members enrolled in the pig project and 806 reported though it was impossible to get a complete record of all pigs handled. However, 27 club members

reported on their sheep projects showing 130 animals handled. With poultry, 1,276 members out of 2,228 members enrolled, reported on their projects showing 43,783 birds handled.

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Don't wait until your overwrought nerves have kept you awake half the night and paved the way for another miserable day. Take two teaspoonsful of Dr. Miles' Nerve and enjoy the relief that follows. Take two more before you go to bed. Sleep—and wake up ready for the days' duties or pleasures.

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