

# Daily Concord Standard.

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—SINGLE COPY 5 CENTS.

## North Carolina and Her Colonial Statesmen.

A production read before the Virginia Dare Book Club on Thursday, January 30th, by a member of the club.

North Carolina is sometimes called the "Old North State," because it was the first settled of the Carolinas, and when a part of it was taken off for convenience, that part was called South Carolina, and the old part was called North Carolina or the Old North State. The first public man whose name is connected with North Carolina history is Sir Walter Raleigh. He was an English nobleman and his life is full of interest. He lived about three hundred years ago, in the most famous period of English history and he was the foremost man of his time. As a writer he was the champion of 'Shakespeare. As a soldier he was the champion of Howard. As a statesman he was the champion of Bacon. As an adviser he was an especial favorite to Queen Elizabeth. The world is full of changes for the better and the worse, and after Queen Elizabeth's death the good fortune of Raleigh changed for the worse. James I, who became King, was led to believe that he was not faithful to his king and country, consequently had him arrested, imprisoned for twelve years, tried for treason and condemned to be beheaded, which was done in the year 1618. Sir Walter Raleigh died as he lived, a brave, faithful Christian man, and his memory is dear to North Carolina, as well as to the English people.

Many events in history derive their public interest from their antiquity. Some from their intrinsic importance, some from the fact that it was a matter in dispute, and men are naturally attracted to any matter of contention or conflict, from the clash of arms in battle array, to a common dog fight in which Tiger gnaws off the ears of Lion in a rough and tumble fight. The question of where Amadas and Barlow first landed on the coast of North Carolina and through what inlet on our sand-barred coast they came to Roanoke Island, is now a controverted question that the antiquarians have failed to settle. It interests only a few old fossils and the younger generation, in a spirit of charity and kindness, turn from the practical tilts of life to listen to these speculations, which are of as much practical importance as the disputes as to the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee.

Nevertheless we are in the fight and we venture to say if Amadas and Barlow had only driven down a stake in the sand, and by a suitable inscription marked the place of their entry, they would have saved enough printer's ink to run seventeen weekly country newspapers during their existence.

It is one of the unsolved problems in human life whether circumstances make great men or great men create the circumstances from which they spring. However that may be, John Harvey was the great leader of the

Revolution in North Carolina. Of illustrious descent, his ancestor, John Harvey, having been Governor of the Province many years before, of large wealth, of great influence, possessing that dominant will-power of which heroes are made, and with natural gifts that were formed for command, John Harvey was born with nature's signet of authority. He had long been the foremost man in the troublous times that preceded the Revolution, that ominous period that betokened the birth of the greatest event in the world's history. His heart was imbued with the spirit of independence that inspired a people who were "freest of the free."

The province of North Carolina was at that time ruled by Governor Martin, who co-operated with Great Britain in her oppression of the colonies. In spite of Gov. Martin's opposition to his plans he issued hand-bills over his own name, calling a convention at New Bern, Aug. 1, 1774. This was the first Revolutionary Convention that ever met in America and John Harvey was its president. It passed resolutions denouncing the claim of Parliament to tax the Colonies without representation; denounced the tax on tea and forbade its use in North Carolina; denounced the Boston Port Bill; declared an import duty upon goods of English manufacture; declared in favor of a Continental Congress of the Colonies and appointed delegates to that Congress in Philadelphia and authorized John Harvey, the president, to call another convention whenever he thought it expedient. That shows where North Carolina stood before there was an overt act of revolution, before a gun was fired at Lexington and before Virginia showed her revolutionary teeth. Before Patrick Henry first uttered the slogan of "Liberty or Death" in the sacred halls of old St. John's church in Richmond, John Harvey had proclaimed the supremacy of the people of North Carolina over kings and their representatives. Many memorials of the patriotism of the citizens of North Carolina during the revolutionary period exist and are preserved. Some have never had any recognition, have slept the sleep of forgetfulness. These men are "Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver"—they lived in the dark days that tried men's souls, those bloody times that bred heroes and tested the fidelity of men to home and country.

There are three events in North Carolina history that have not been sufficiently commemorated: The Battle of Alamance, the Proceedings of the Vestry of Paul's Church of Edenton and the Battle of Moore's Creek. Mecklenburg has been more fortunate—its position was long contested, especially by the Virginia historians, but it has fought its way to public recognition, and now the name of Brevard, Avery, Polk, Alexander, Davidson, Graham, Balch and the other immortals, who signed the famous Declaration are written high in

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the annals of history. Along with these are the names of many brilliant men and staunch patriots, such as John Ashe, Wm. Hooper, Joseph Hewes and John Penn, signers to the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia. (CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE)

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