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The Story of Robt. E. Lee

The Man of Iron Strength and a Woman's Heart

MRS. MENZIES FINE PAPER

Refused to Take Up Arms Against the South Though He Was Opposed to Secession

The following is an elegant sketch of the career of Gen. Robt. E. Lee, read at the U. D. C. meeting at the home of Mrs. H. D. Abernethy last week by Mrs. H. C. Menzies:

Of all the men whose character and ability were displayed in the great Civil War there were none in either the Confederate or the Union army, whose greatness, moral and military, is more generally acknowledged than that of the famous Confederate commander-in-chief. His ability as a soldier and his character as a man and a Christian are alike appreciated, and it is not too much to say that he is recognized in North and South alike, in Europe as well as America, as one of the greatest soldiers and one of the noblest and purest of men that modern history has to show. Shall we not say with Shakespeare? "He was a man, take him for all in all; we shall not look upon his like again."

Robert Edward Lee was born at Stratford, Va., Jan. 19, 1807, and was only eleven years old when his father, the famous "Light Horse Harry" of Revolutionary fame, died. With a natural inclination toward his father's profession, he became a student at West Point, entering the academy in 1825, and graduating in 4 years, without a demerit and with second honors. During these youthful years he was remarkable in personal appearance, possessing a handsome face and superb figure, and a manner that charmed by cordiality and wore respect with dignity. He was thoroughly moral, free from vices, and while full of life and fun, he was more inclined to serious than gay society.

He married Mary Custis, granddaughter of Martha Washington, in 1831. Seven children were born to them. Soon after graduating he was made captain and in the Mexican war he served as chief engineer in Scott's army, winning high honors. Jefferson Davis said of him, "He came from Mexico crowned with honors, covered with brevets, and recognized, young as he was, as one of the ablest of his country's soldiers."

In 1859 he commanded the troops which captured John Brown and put an end to his insensate attempt. Then for a few years he shared the hardships of frontier duty, defending the western states against hostile Indians. In the spring of 1861 he was summoned to Washington and reached the capital a few days before Lincoln was inaugurated. He was just 54 years of age and had been in the service of the government 36 years. He had reached the exact prime of maturity; in form, features, and general bearing the type of magnificent manhood; educated to thoroughness, cultivated by extensive reading, wide experience, and contact with the great men of the period, with a dauntless bravery tested and improved by military perils in many battles; his skill in war recognized as of the highest order by comrades and commanders; and with a patriot in whom there was no guile and a man without reproach. Bearing this record he appeared at the Capital of the country that he loved and was there offered command of the Union army. To this alluring offer Lee at once replied courteously and candidly that "though opposed to secession he would take no part in the invasion of the Southern States." His resignation followed at once, and repairing to Virginia he accepted the command of her military forces, and after the Battle of Seven Pines he was made commander-in-chief of all the army. The people came to regard him as the only man who could possibly carry them through the struggle successfully. The love of his troops for him knew no bounds, because they had implicit faith in his ability and knew he was a sympathizing friend in their trials. He feared no better than his troops. Their rough, scant rations were his as well.

And now began that long and terrific series of battles which

so splendidly displayed his magnificent abilities as a commander and it is hard to overrate the mastery with which this was done, under the greatest difficulties and discouragements. It was love and devotion to their commander which held together the armies of the Confederacy; and this coupled with their confidence in his skill, long made his ragged and half starved soldiers more than a match for the superior armies of McClellan and Grant. In the battles of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, the frightful losses in the Union army gave terrible proof of Lee's ability to take swift advantage of the least mistake of his antagonist. There were more Union men killed and wounded in two of these battles than Lee had in his whole army.

We pass on to see him at Appomattox, nobly yielding himself and army when resistance was no longer possible. The universal affection and respect which the people of the South felt for Gen. Lee was, if possible, increased after the close of the war. The confiscation of his property had rendered him homeless. Homes without number were offered him but he chose a small, simple, country place where he gathered his wife and children expecting to lead a retired and quiet life. He was also offered many positions with liberal salaries, but these were refused, until he finally accepted the presidency of Washington College, believing he could be of influence and use in that position. This expectation was not a mistaken one. The number of students increased ten-fold within a short time. His wisdom and skill in managing the students was remarkable. His appeal to the higher sentiments of the young men seemed never to fail.

Bitterness and resentment seemed to have no place in Gen. Lee's nature. Even toward men who exhibited the most intense bitterness against him he seemed to have no other feeling than kindness and good will. A touching story, illustrating this noble trait of his was told years ago by a noted Union veteran who was reviewing the great panorama, The Battle of Gettysburg. He said, "I was at the Battle of Gettysburg myself. I had been a bitter anti-South man, and fought and cursed the Confederates desperately. I could see nothing good in any of them. The last day of the fight I was badly wounded. A ball shattered my left leg. I lay on the ground not from Cemetery Ridge, and as Gen. Lee ordered his retreat, he and his officers rode near me. As they came along I recognized him, and though faint from exposure and loss of blood, I raised up my hands, looked Lee in the face and shouted as loud as I could, 'Hurrah for the Union!' The general heard me, looked, stopped his horse, dismounted and came toward me. I confess that I at first thought he meant to kill me. But as he came up he looked down at me with such a sad expression upon his face that all fear left me and I wondered what he was about. He extended his hand to me and grasping mine firmly and looking right into my eyes, said, 'My son, I hope you will soon be well.' If I live a thousand years I shall never forget the expression on Gen. Lee's face. There he was defeated, retiring from a field that had cost him and his cause almost his last hope, and yet he stopped to say words like those to a wounded soldier who had taunted him as he passed by! As soon as the general left me I cried myself to sleep upon the bloody ground."

He lived only a few years after the close of the war. The anxieties of his military life had changed his hair to gray, and his nearest friends alone saw that his great sympathy for the misfortunes of his people became a malady which physicians could not remove, and on Oct. 12, 1870, he died in the Christian's faith which he had all his life confessed.

Beyond the borders of this continent and extending over ocean east and west his name has gone to be honored, his character to be admired, and military history to be studied alongside the work of the great masters of war. Happy indeed are the Southern people in knowing him to be their own while they surrendered his fame to become a part of their country's glory.

Rev. W. T. Walker was chosen manager of the Barium Springs Orphanage by the Board of Regents at Barium but has declined. Front Street Church in Statesville is after him for pastor.

Brains Enough For The Scheme

Charlie Cotton Moore Talks of the Creamery Project

CATAWBA IDEAL CO.

The Very Thing to Bring This Old Red Land to the High- est State of Develop- ment

"Do you think a creamery would be profitable in Catawba county?" asked a Democrat man of Mr. Charlie Cotton Moore, of Mecklenburg, for years one of the finest dairymen of the State.

Mr. Moore had dropped into the Democrat office and was chatting with the staff. He was in the city on business for the Southern Power Company securing rights of way for their lines. "It would be profitable in my opinion," replied Mr. Moore. "Properly managed it would pay as much on the investment as any industry you could start here."

"Well, why do you think so, Mr. Moore?" "Because of the nature of the soil in Catawba county. It is adapted to the growth of almost any forage plant necessary to feed dairy cows. Through a creamery you would market products of this soil as the finished article, at the same time making it possible to add to the fertility of the soil; whereas the sale of grain and forage depletes the fertility of the soil."

"Do you know how much good country butter is being exported out of Catawba county?" "I have heard it was about 1200 pounds," said Mr. Moore. "Let me say further," he added, "that in passing from house to house in this county I and the people are ready to take hold of this enterprise, provided the promoters are men who have the confidence of the people of the county."

"I should think that \$2500 or \$3000 ought to start the county out with a good creamery plant. The cows are the essence of the whole thing. There should be an ironclad contract with a sufficient number of men to guarantee a regular supply of milk adequate to the capacity of the creamery."

"These contracts should be made before the creamery is built. If the contracts are made the creamery will be a success." Mr. Moore said he thought there were already 154 cows available for the creamery in the territory just south of Hickory for a distance of five miles or so, and that is was believed to be necessary to have just double that number of cows to make the creamery a go. He was told of Mr. W. J. Shuford's plan to have a lot of fine cows brought here, sold at auction, no man being allowed to get more than a certain number. Farmers would be loaned the money for this purpose which was to be paid out of their first profits from the creamery.

Mr. Moore said he thought this would be a good and excellent plan. He recommended, further, holding schoolhouse meetings in territory adjacent to the section where the creamery subject was already developed. "I would have a well-posted local man to explain every detail," he said. "Then call for subscribers and expect a response of at least three cows to the man present. I would be careful not to go beyond the reach of the men present at the meeting in the number of cows. Don't push the men too hard."

"I just want to say this before I quit," added Mr. Moore, "and that is that there is an abundance of brains and ability in Catawba county, if put to use, to land this enterprise. I know this to be the fact. I know Watt Shuford, Henry Lutz, and the old man Lutz, Robinson, Bob Shuford, Noah Propst, Baker and all the rest of those fellows. I know what I am talking about when I say they can do it if they will."

DECEMBER HONOR ROLL

Hickory Boys and Girls Who Are Saying Good Lessons

Following is the honor roll of the Hickory Graded School for December:

First Grade, A. Section.—Marcellus Kennedy, Willie Sherrill, Carroll Dysart, Joe Pearce, Pink Huggins, Lonard Johnson, Joe Shell, Glenn Russell, Lucie Bumgarner, Gladys Heffer, E. I. Edwards, Eula Mace, Gertrude

Peeler, Virginia Bryan, Louise Ciley, Ida Starnes, Charlotte Garth, Clarissa Abernethy, Essie White, Louise Isenhour, Catherine Hardin.

Second Grade.—Ollie Wells, Fred Buff, Edgar Burns, Jacob Geitner, Ora Thornburg, Hilda Whittner, Ezra Abernethy, William Bailey, Violet Blalock, Stedman Council, Walter Hamrick, George Harris, Floyd Huffman, Mary Miller, Grace Seaboch, Ralph Seaboch, Marvin Sublett, Robert Abernethy.

Third Grade.—Walter Spielman, Roy Bolick, Roy Swaringer, Anna Wacaster, Louis Whitener, Louie Whitener, George White, Carrie Hahn, Jeffy Bolch, Clifford Jones, Mary Clement.

Fourth Grade.—Moses Kennedy, Maggie Whitener, Robert Jones, Paul Deaton, Pamela Starnes, Harvey Huggins, Osee Long.

Fifth Grade.—Alleen Aiken, Carrie Bland, Ivo Edwards, Gertrude Fox, Vera Gibbs, Doris Hutton, Annie Killian, Annie Long, Lovie Miller, Cecil Maynard, Luna Odum, Kate Shuford, Annie White, Dewey Berry, Dudley Berry, Ernest Bumgarner, Clinton Ciley, Alex Menzies, Earl Rink, Donald A. Swaford, Paul Stevenson, Ernest Swaringer, Norman Woodliff.

Sixth Grade.—Ola Deitz, Alvin Bolch, Louise Elliott, Gussie White, Sadie Whitener, Willie Woodliff, Beatrice Sigmon, Shuford Whitener, Harvey McComb, Charles Menzies, Walter Gilbert, D. C. Huffman, Miriam Whitener, Ray Little, Charles Kirk, Claude Ingram, Henry Jones, Lou Deal Hattie Fox, Lou Hawn, Faustine Jones.

Seventh Grade.—Florence Sharpe, Paul Huffman.

Eighth Grade.—Claude Abernethy, Kate Elliott, Edgar Fox, Frances Geitner, Adelyn McComb, Millie Kate McComb, Ora Sublett, Jettie Williams, Estelle Wolfe, Sadie Salvo, Antha Lytle.

Ninth Grade.—Euna Bonner, Mary Bumgarner, Carl Cline, Leroy Deaton, Sam Hawn, Beulah Huffman, Adelaide Johnson, Elizabeth McComb, Grace Patrick, Ernest Starnes.

Tenth Grade.—Mabel Cooper, Frank Elliott, Mary Field, Bertha Harris, Mary Kirk, Addie May Michael, William McComb, Marie Whitener, Grover Huffman.

Catawba's Next Door Neighbors

There is much sympathy for Rev. C. C. Brothers, a superannuated Methodist minister who had the Catawba circuit in 1897 and 1898, over the loss of his mind. He recently returned from Fairview, Buncombe county, to Newton to live, and then his mind gave way. As he was being taken from there to Morganton those on the train were startled when he said: "A wire has just gone round the earth that the world will be saved by the grace of God and Japallac." Mr. Brothers is said to be suffering from spinal neuritis.

The Newton Enterprise records the death of Frank Setzer, of Caldwell township, 80 years old. One of his sons is Rev. A. W. Setzer of Maiden.

Mr. M. M. Cline, of Newton, is suffering from a serious form of heart disease.

The Enterprise says the will of Mr. Mike Plonk leaves \$15,000. His widow, Mary Jane Plonk, gets the house and lot in Newton and \$2,000 in money. To three children he makes the following special bequests: Mrs. Lorena Barbara Elizabeth Pickett, \$400, Michael Joseph Thomas Plonk, \$200; Lillie Catherine Herndon, \$100. There are several other bequests to grandchildren of \$100, and the residue is to be divided equally between grandchildren.

General News.

Aviator Louis Paulhan got a \$10,000 prize at Los Angeles for sailing 45 miles in a cross country flight to a point and returning without stopping.

George Gould's daughter Margorie is to marry Anthony J. Drexel, Jr. of Philadelphia.

Firemen's Fire Insurance Co.

Organization in North Carolina Practically Assured

MR. MCNIELL EXPLAINS

The Entire Membership of Hickory's Volunteer Depart- ment will be Found on Subscription List

At an enthusiastic meeting of the Hickory Volunteer Fire Department held in the reception hall of the Hickory Club, Wednesday, Jan. 19th, at 8 o'clock P. M. The entire membership of the Department and a number of our leading citizens, among them State Senator J. D. Elliott, City Attorney E. B. Cline, and Alderman H. F. Elliott, Chairman of the Fire Committee were present.

Hon. Jas. D. McNiell, President of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, was the guest of the Department on this occasion and made an able and convincing argument in favor of the organization of a Firemen's Fire Insurance Co. for North Carolina.

Chief McNiell prefaced his address by a short history of the organization of the State Association of Firemen and also referred to the conditions which menaced the material upbuilding of the State in cities and towns prior to the efficient organization of its fire-fighters. The fire insurance business was carried on at a decided loss up to this time but since the organization and equipment of an able, patriotic and unselfish band of men, the firemen of North Carolina, fire insurance has become a very profitable business, as is witnessed by the large volume of insurance written by eight of the leading state companies in the last two years, showing a handsome percentage of profits over losses paid.

Chief McNiell then explained the methods and policies that would be pursued by the company when it was organized. The capital stock authorized will be \$100,000 with the privilege of beginning business when \$50,000 has been paid in. The capital stock will be divided into 10,000 shares but only 5000 will be sold at present and the surplus will be \$12,500.

The name of the company and the home office will be decided when the organization is completed and the officers elected. Economy of management will be a specialty and annual reports are to be made to the State Firemen's Association at its regular annual meeting, giving in detail all receipts and disbursements, including salaries of officers, fees, etc., thereby enabling every stockholder to know how his business affairs are being conducted.

At the conclusion of Chief McNiell's address, Senator Elliott and Attorney Cline spoke in most complimentary terms to organize a Fire Insurance Company among the firemen of the State, giving it their most hearty approval both from a business standpoint and one which tends to increase the efficiency of the various departments in the State.

Chief Moser, of the Local Department, was appointed to solicit subscriptions to the stock and the entire membership of "Hickory's Volunteers" will be found among the list of subscribers.

The meeting was most enthusiastic throughout and the "Fire Laddies" gave their highly honored and beloved chief and president the closest attention.

BOYS' CORN CLUBS

A Catawba Lad Ought to Win First Prize in 9th District

In the Boys' Corn Club Contests this year, Catawba has been placed in the ninth district, which is as follows: Yadkin, Davie, Rowan, Iredell, Catawba, Lincoln, Gaston, Cleveland, Rutherford, and Polk.

The Democrat wants to see a Catawba county boy get the first prize of \$25 in this district. The following are extracts of a letter about the contest:

To the Editor of the Democrat: The Board of Agriculture at its December meeting appropriated \$500 for premiums to Boys' Corn Club contestants. The contestants are to be between the ages of 12 to 17 years. Any boy becoming 12 years old by June first will be eligible, and any boy who is now 17 but will be 18 not later

than August first will be eligible to enter the contest. The rules governing the contest will be about as they were last year, except that any boy will be permitted to get any person to break his land for him. I do this because the younger boys are not heavy enough to handle a large two-horse plow in heavy land, but after the land is broken each boy must do the remainder of the work himself. Only \$10 worth of commercial fertilizers may be used on each acre. The plat of land must be a full acre. Less than an acre will not be considered. The plat of land must not be less than a half acre in width. Square plats are preferred. Only boys living on the farm can compete for these prizes. The plat of land must be a part of some regular field in the farm, and not a garden spot, a town lot, or a plat belonging to some city or other corporation. The contestant may use all the home raised manure he can get. Cotton seed, cotton-seed meal, city garbage, fish or fish scrap will be considered as commercial fertilizers.

The State has been divided into ten districts, and prizes aggregating \$50 will be given to the winners in each district. First prize, \$25; second prize, \$15; third prize \$10. The average yield made by the boys in this State last year was 57 bushels per acre. The boy who succeeds in growing a large crop of corn stands a good show of developing into a man who will also grow large crops. We want a hundred or more boys in each county to enter the contest. Letters of enquiry or for application blanks should be addressed to the undersigned.

T. R. PARKER, Demonstrator,
Raleigh, N. C.

The Week in the Women's Clubs.

Mrs. H. M. Doll was the gracious hostess to the Round Dozen Book Club on Wednesday afternoon, the 19th. A round dozen in attendance. The book for discussion was "Freckles," by Porter, and much interesting information was given about the talented authoress as well as her books.

A chapter from "Aunt Jane, of Kentucky" was thoroughly enjoyed, and discussion of current news concluded the program.

A dainty luncheon was served and the club adjourned to meet next with Mrs. J. L. Murphy.

Mrs. Claudia Henderson very pleasantly entertained the Thursday Study Club on the 20th. In addition to fourteen members, Misses Graham, of Philadelphia, and Mabel Little were present as visitors. Quotations were on "Patriotism." The topic for the day "Amsterdam," was given by Mrs. D. L. Fry. The discussion of current events was unusually enjoyable.

Music by Miss Mabel Little concluded the program, after which delicious refreshments were served in three courses by the hostess and her daughters.

Rhode Island Acted White

From the Statesville Landmark

The status of the repudiated North Carolina bonds and the State of Rhode Island is this: Some time ago the Rhode Island Legislature was induced to pass an act providing that the State should accept as a gift any bonds presented to it, and requiring the State Treasurer to bring suit for their collection. The owners of the repudiated North Carolina bonds secured the passage of the act by concealing their purpose, but as soon as their purpose became apparent and the facts were known, the decent people of Rhode Island were not only heartily ashamed of their part in the transaction, but they promptly repudiated the whole business and the Legislature has repealed the act. The holders of the fraudulent North Carolina bonds, who have for years sought to induce some State in the Union, or some foreign State, to do what they came near having done in Rhode Island, will have to look elsewhere. The bonds which were collected through South Dakota a few years ago were not of the fraudulent carpetbag issue but were genuine bonds. The reason for the suit was that in the days when the State was poor financially it had compromised with its creditors and these bonds were paid at the rate of 25 cents on the dollar. Nearly all the bondholders accepted this compromise but a few held out for the face value of the bonds, and it was this class of the bonds that were collected through South Dakota.

A Railway To Lookout Shoals

Southern Power Will Build it To Haul Material

TO BE STANDARD GAUGE

Rights of Way from Hickory All Secured Except about Eight Properties—Work Begins Soon

The Southern Power Company intends to push to rapid completion the work of developing its water power at Lookout Shoals, according to Mr. Charlie Cotton Moore, of Charlotte, who is doing highly efficient work for the company in securing the rights of way.

"How are you coming along?" Mr. Moore was asked when he was in the city last week. "All right," replied Mr. Moore. "The right of way from Hickory to Lookout Shoals has been secured except about eight properties, and these will be closed in a few days. The material for building this line will be shipped at once to Hickory, Conover and Claremont. As soon as the material arrives at these parts, the constructing force will return to this county to build this line."

"The current will be transmitted from the Hickory sub-station over this line to the river and will be used for operating the derricks and other machinery required in constructing the dam. From some point on the Southern railway to Lookout Shoals a standard gauged railway is to be built for transporting material to the scene of the water power development."

The Southern Power Co. expects to develop 8,000 h. p. at the Lookout Shoals property. This is to be distributed from the river direct to Taylorsville, Newton, Conover, and such other points as may need it."

A Millionaire-Pauper Dies.

John Louis Hinton, of Pasquotank, died near Elizabeth City Jan. 18, aged 89. Though worth \$1,000,000 and owning real estate in nearly every State in the Union, he had no carpets on the floor and washed his face every morning in the horse trough. The Raleigh News and Observer says he refused to sell anything for cash but was always glad to sell to anyone, whether white or black, and take note secured by property or life insurance policy, which he would carry. Recently his sons came into possession of some of his property, a small tract which they sold on Main street in Elizabeth City to Kramer Brothers for \$20,000. He leaves five sons and two daughters. His death means the improvement of the finest property in the heart of Elizabeth City.

Mr. Wakefield's Insurance

From the Statesville Landmark

Rev. John Wakefield, of the Barium Orphans' Home, who died last week, carried a \$5,000 annuity policy in the Security Life & Annuity Company, of Greensboro, and the first payment from the insurance company was delivered to Mrs. Wakefield yesterday by the local agent, Mr. Walter E. Sloan. Rev. Mr. Wakefield also carried \$1,000 insurance with the Presbyterian Ministers' Fund.

Frost-Proof Cabbage Plants

The Democrat has made an arrangement with the Wm. C. Geraty Co., of Young's Island, S. C., growers of the famous "frost-proof cabbage plants," whereby it will be able to supply the farmers of Catawba with this cabbage plant at reasonable rates.

Call at The Democrat office, leave your order and number of plants desired and we will order the plants sent to your address.

An Out-of-town Booster.

Rev. P. C. Henry, of Conover, wrote the Democrat on Monday: "I am sorry I cannot attend the meeting of the Boosters' Club tonight at Hotel Huffry, as I desired to enroll my name also. I am very much interested in seeing Hickory grow, and I know it will for it has a good Booster behind it in The Democrat." Hickory is glad to have the county people help boost.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA.