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The Natural  
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NIAGARA FALLS. N. Y.



"IT'S ALL IN THE SHREDS"

## THE POLK FAMILY

NOTE—In line with giving visitors definite information regarding the State of North Carolina, the editor has secured several stories of which this is the tenth to appear.

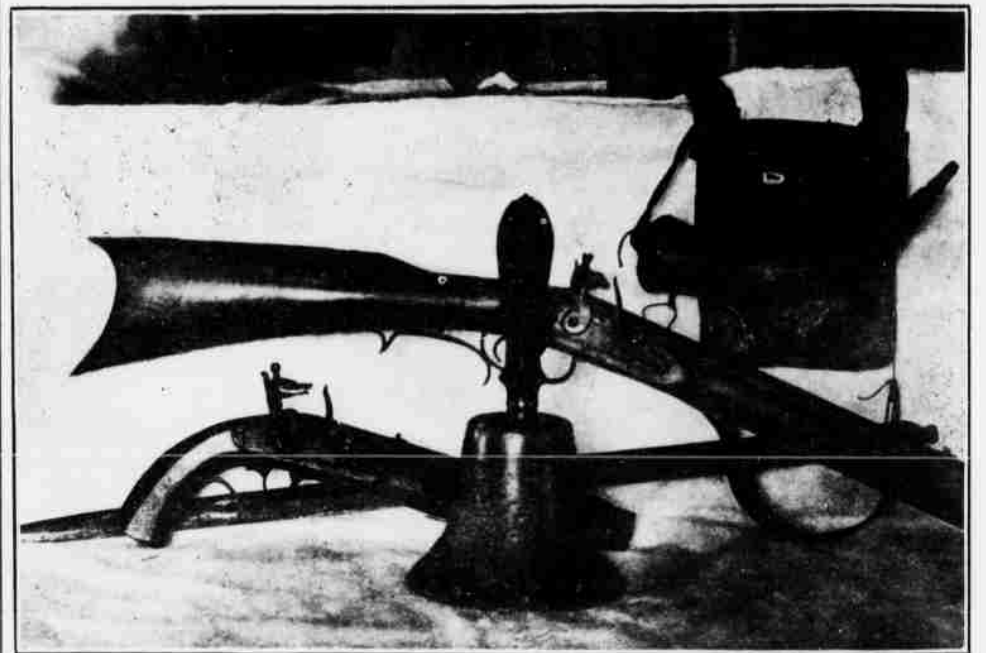
The articles already printed include the following: Dec. 29, Industries; Jan. 5, Educational Equipment; Jan. 12, Hall of History, State Museum; Jan. 19, The State Museum; Feb. 2, The Theodosia Burr Alston Portrait; Feb. 9, Famous Fort Fisher; Feb. 16, Famous Pistols These; March 2, The Strange Story of the Croatan Indians; March 9, The Edenton Tea Party; March 16, Historic State Flag (Bethel); March 23, Carolina's Regulators

kitchen-garden hedged with osage orange, the bois d'arc or bow-wood of the southern Indians, with a greater garden for greater supplies, and long rows of slave houses. The house was grand, with massive mahogany furniture and silver plate and from the Revolutionary days downward to 1830, it was the rendezvous of the great men of the time.

Colonel Polk was a Whig of Whigs, but he entertained political friends and enemies alike in the heartiest style. The cellar of his big home was full of the finest wines and brandies and rum, for, in those days, no one but the negroes drank whiskey. At every public gathering in Raleigh Colonel Polk was, for many years, the presiding officer and nothing was complete without him, but the two chief days were the Fourth of July and Washington's Birthday.

At the former, the celebration being out-doors, near what was known as the

**A** FAMILY which for many years played a leading part in North Carolina life, was that which had as its head Thomas Polk. He was succeeded by his son, William, whose nephew was James K. Polk, President of the United States: the family having divided, one brother going to Tennessee, which state



RELICS OF THE REGULATORS.

was established and primarily settled by North Carolinians, after the abortive attempt to create the state of "Franklin," which had an existence, most of the time merely nominal, of barely eight years.

Thomas Polk was of Charlotte and was a very ardent Revolutionary patriot, and so was William Polk, whose home was Raleigh, and who for more than forty years was the head-center of every patriotic demonstration or movement here. The Charlotte branch of the Polk family, headed by Thomas, was especially notable in the early Revolutionary movement, and Captain Polk was the commander of a troop of light-horse.

It is about William Polk, however, that most of this story is to center. He was accounted one of the strictest and most devoted Americans in all the country and he was prouder of his familiar title, "The Friend of Washington," than of any other, though to be sure, he had honors enough, civil and military.

His home was a stately place of the olden time, a manor-house in fact, and 'round about it was a fringe of out-buildings, for every domestic use with a

mineral spring, located quite near Governor's mansion, or "palace", as it was popularly termed. There was always a parade, on the Fourth, of infantry, cavalry and artillery, in gorgeous uniforms; the light battery being always posted near the springs to fire the salute. There were long tables at which were served a barbecue, brunswick stew and all sorts of other southern dishes, flanked by plenty of drinkables, as well as cakes and dainties of many sorts, prepared by the women.

Those were the days of many toasts and heavy drinking, when "three-bottle" men who could tuck away three quarts of good old port under their waistcoats and still be able to sit up and use language were plentiful.

Colonel Polk was a brave old drinker, and was not the less admired on that account, since in those days drinking was the fashion and the ladies only smiled when a gentleman was in his cups. At some of these affairs as many as forty toasts would be drunk, including "Our Country," the "Memory of Washington," the "President of the United States," the

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