

**Monument Unveiling**

(Continued from front page)

in sight, headed by a score of American Legion soldiers. At their head were the three flags—The Stars and Bars of the Confederacy, the Stars and Stripes of our re-united United States, and the flag of the sovereign State of North Carolina. These flags were borne by the Boy Scouts, followed by their drum corps. Behind the Legionnaires and Scouts came 500 students from the Rockingham high school. The small children of the two grammar schools did not participate, due to their youth and the fact they would have to stand during the exercises.

The school children formed in front of the stand, which had been erected just to the east of the monument. The street entrances had been roped off by the Police Department, the officers handling the crowd nicely. Around 1500 people were massed in front of the stand when the Rev. Howard S. Hartzell, of the Episcopal Church, offered the invocation. "America" was sung by the multitude, followed by "Tenting Tonight" led by Mrs. Roy Phillips and a male quartette.

On the platform were Congressman-elect Walter Lambeth, Ex-Governor Cameron Morrison, the U. D. C. officers and five Confederate veterans whose combined ages totalled 446 years. The thin grey line is getting rapidly thinned. It is well the monument was erected now.

Mrs. R. T. Nichols, president of the U. D. C. chapter, presided, and most excellently. The first act of the exercises was the unveiling—with little Ridsen Thomas Nichols, Jr., pulling the cords that held the monument covered. This little lad, aged 5, is a great great grandson of Robert Webb, who was one of the three Commissioners appointed by the General Assembly in 1779 to lay out a site for the newly created County of Richmond. The other two Commissioners were Gen. Henry W. Harrington and John Cole, Sr. These three men on April 1, 1785, bought 18 acres for 6 lbs. and 3 shillings from John James, Sr., and 32 acres for 9 lbs. and 12 shillings from John Cole; and it is on these 50 acres that the town of Rockingham, the county-seat, was duly laid out. This little Nichols boy had in Pee Dee Guards, the first company to leave Richmond county in 1861 for the front, a great uncle, Lt. Ridsen Thomas Nichols, a grandfather, Robt. L. Nichols, and great grandfather, Wm. W. Ellerbe.

Interspersed during the exercises was music by the young negro boys from the Morrison Training School, situated 7 miles from Rockingham. This school was built by the State through the efforts of the Secretary of State, W. N. Everett, and Ex-Governor Cameron Morrison, and was named in honor of Mr. Morrison. Under the circumstances, it was felt fitting that these negro boys should make music with their band for the occasion.

During the exercises, the stores of the town were closed, and the U. S. flag was displayed in front of every place of business.

The platform was entwined with Confederate colors, bunting, of red and white, with Confederate flags waving in the breeze.

Mrs. Geo. P. Entwistle was then presented, and a felicitous speech presented the monument to the County. It was accepted by W. S. Thomas, Clerk of Court—a man, by the way, who is probably related to more people in Richmond county than any other man in the county.

The quartette sang, "Keller's American Hymn." And then Mrs. R. T. Nichols happily introduced the speaker, Ex-Governor Cameron Morrison. Mr. Morrison spoke for 25 minutes, at the conclusion of which Rev. M. C. Ellerbe of the Methodist Church, pronounced the benediction.

In order to save these speeches as a permanent record, the Post-Dispatch is indebted to Miss Lois Hayward, a most competent stenographer who "took down" the speeches in short-hand.

The monument was bought through the Rockingham Marble Works, of which O. W. Doster is owner-manager. The U. D. C. feel indebted to Mr. Doster for his interest and assistance in planning for this monument.

**Presentation**

by Mrs. Geo. P. Entwistle

Madam President, friends, and fellow citizens: we are glad to have you all with us this morning. To me it is one of the proudest moments of my life to be chosen by the Pee Dee Guards Chapter of the U. D. C. as the one to present this monument in honor of those who went from this county in the dark days of the 60's and who, for what they thought was right, went into the war and fought for their rights. We feel that in honoring these men, we honor ourselves, and as daughters and granddaughters and nieces of these men, we want to do something in memory of our Richmond County boys, so this monument we unveil today is what we have done for our boys. The generosity of the Boy Scouts and the American Legion and our friends here have made this monument possible. Without this, we would have struggled on for no telling how many more years but today we are glad to have this monument. We especially wanted it for those men who fought for their lives and are still with us. We wanted it to show

the future generations so that wherever they may see a Confederate monument they may remember; the cause of the confederacy, the rights that they fought for, and may their ideals live in the hearts of our children and grandchildren.

**Acceptance**

by Mr. W. S. Thomas

Madam Chairman, Pee Dee Guards of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has been said that a people who forget their dead deserve themselves to be forgotten. It is meet and proper, therefore, that we have assembled here on this occasion to do honor to and fitly commemorate the valor and heroism of that brave band of soldiers who went out from this county to follow the fortunes of Lee Jackson from '61 to '65, as brave a band of heroes as ever kept step to martial music.

When a great man dies the living seek to perpetuate his memory. For this monuments builded, Mausoleums are founded and statues erected. This is not done to appease the dead nor to render their sleep more peaceful and profound, but rather to inspire the living to nobler and better lives.

United Daughters of the Confederacy, this Memorial made possible by your untiring efforts, and here dedicated to perpetuate the undying valor of our soldiers, will stand as a monument of your devotion to the Confederate soldier, who like the mothers of the Confederacy were their guardian angels on the field of battle and your benefactors since that terrible conflict ended.

It has been by your efforts and your fidelity to these heroes in gray that monuments have been erected, historic spots marked and the state brought to realize its duty in providing sustenance for the few survivors as the evening shadows gather about them.

Like the temple fires which were fed by the vestal virgins, the flames have never died upon the hearthstones at which she ministers. Daughters of the Confederacy, I esteem it great honor indeed to have the privilege of accepting this memorial in memory of that brave band of heroes who went out from this county to do battle, a great number never to return, and whose last resting place is known only to the Great Captain of the Universe. In behalf of this small remnant of that great army whom I am pleased abide with us still and who have passed their fourscore years and more and who have lived to see this occasion when they and their comrades in battle have been fitly honored; in behalf of the citizenship of this county who glory in the deeds of our brave soldiers, I accept this Memorial at your hands.

As we pause around this historic spot may the noble spirits of our heroic dead call to us to give our best efforts in the service of our great country, to think the highest that is in us to do, and be the best that is in us to be.

**The Address**

By Hon. Cameron Morrison

Madam chairman, survivors of the armies of the Confederacy, Daughters of the Confederacy and assembled, North Carolinians:

This beautiful monument, the services up to now connected with its presentation and this great assemblage of the patriotic people of this county, are all most creditable to Richmond County. I have been about over the world a great deal and I know something of the people of many sections of the country, but I do believe that there is as true and unselfish patriotism in the hearts of Richmond County as lofty as the best in all the world. Through all their trial the people of this county have met duty in a way to enact the admiration of mankind.

In the war between the states we did not produce great generals who became lights in the history of the great military records of the Confederacy, but the soldiery of Richmond County brought from those great battle fields as much glory as any county under the southern skies.

When I was a boy I fortunately picked up a history of the Pee Dee Guards written by the late H. C. Wall. I read it as a boy and I could not trust my memory of some things that was in it now, but I remember one thing which has been the pride of my life, and it is this: My kinsfolk made the name Morrison synonymous with dare-devil bravery and loyalty to their great cause.

My father was not a member of the Pee Dee Guards. He went later. But his cousins and brothers were all in it and I am proud of its history. If I should undertake to discuss the descendants of those brave men, I would have to discuss practically all the men now living of almost every family of Richmond County, because that was the company in which most of the men of this section went, but not by any means all. It seems to me that that history, as I read it as a boy, told of some historic action of some member of almost every family in Richmond County. It gave me then great pride that I lived among a people who without high rank had done so many things worthy of even the divine power of the poets.

Our ancestors did mighty deeds in that great conflict and those who survived came back to meet the difficulties and troubles to follow with a manhood, a steadiness and a wisdom that brought happiness to the people of Richmond County and through most of its history prosperity and

happiness. We have our difficulties but the high courage instilled into the hearts of this county gave the people of this county the courage to suffer and to struggle and the wisdom to generally overcome their difficulties.

We are beset now with great material difficulties, but my countrymen, prosperity and the lack of material things and prosperity will never destroy the pride of this county or of the country. Man does not live on bread alone, and the happiness and future greatness and prosperity of the people here and everywhere does not depend so much as is generally thought upon material things. They are but transient and will come right in due time. If the people would allow their high spiritual life to decay, demoralization and ultimate and final ruin would follow in spite of material things. The great people of this county, I feel sure, in spite of the depression which now transgresses all of the people of this section and of this county, will find happiness and strength in the knowledge which they can obtain from history and tradition that their ancestors have come through things compared to these that we could not see how they have lived over and through. The soldiers of the Confederacy probably suffered as no soldiers on this continent ever suffered before and yet in spite of inadequate arms, in spite of lack of provisions on which to live, they accomplished more, resources considered, than any army that ever marched to war in any history. The great army of Robert E. Lee fought more battles with practically the same personnel than any army in history. And yet it is the everlasting imperishable glory to all the south that that army was never defeated in its history. Not quite successful in its objective at Gettysburg, but yet any one thinks they were whipped there is foolish.

They fought three days and at the end of the three days Lee kept his army intact. They would have received a monumental thrashing, as everybody knows, but finally it marched away with 5 generals and 6000 prisoners of the northern army. And after that, it won more honor and glory than any army of the world.

The suffering our fathers went through in those battles has given the people of the state the fiber to meet difficulties compared to those we now suffer so great that when we think of them we can forget the present. All this will enable us to go through this period and find happiness and prosperity in the not distant future.

I am always glad to come to Richmond County. Right here is one of the most sacred spots in all the world to me. My first speech as a lawyer was made in the old courthouse here, and I will never forget my timidity, which I have somewhat overcome since. I was scared well nigh to death. I stood up before the jury to make a gesture, something like I had seen other speakers make, and I threw my heel up in the air, and I thought that heel would never come down. I have been scared a great many times since, but never quite so bad as on that occasion. We talked a great deal in this old courthouse. Lots of nonsense, and little wisdom, but I was always strengthened and upheld by the partiality and kind favors of the devoted friends of my boyhood, and whatever I have accomplished and whatever I have done to serve my state and my day, I am indebted for it all to the kind favor and partiality and loyal friendship of the great mass of people of dear old Richmond County. This county is a great county in material things, but the greatest thing in this county is the love of the great body of people for the primary things in which patriots and Christians are interested.

This is a great country in material things but the greatest thing in this country is the love of the great body of people for the primary things in which patriots and Christians are interested. I do hope that whatever may come to this country in material things that forever the people will strive to keep in the hearts of all the people the history of the heroic sacrifices of the fathers who made the glories of the Pee Dee Guards and the other companies into which the sons of this county poured in the 60's to fight for what they thought was right, but what was right, as history finally acknowledged.

Some folks say our daddies were honest but hot-headed. Our daddies took the only course that was honest and I despise the weakness of any boy who says that his daddy was honest but a fool back in those great days! They were honest and right and they did all that they could do consistent to manhood. We should all defend the valor and courage of our forefathers in which they displayed those mighty virtues to which we love to refer.

North Carolina did not want to go into the war, not because they did not think the state was right, but because they had done so much to help make the union that they hated to leave it. They wanted to preserve the union and they made a record unsurpassed in their efforts, but when it became necessary, they went into the war wholeheartedly.

It is the glory of North Carolina that while it did not join the Confederacy until the very last, and all had been done that a great Christian people could do to keep out of it, a large percentage of our people were in the thickest of the battles and helped to win most of the glories that we celebrate and are celebrating today. When Lee's great army surrendered

their guns at Appomattox, more than one-half of all of them were handed in from the hands of North Carolinians.

In conclusion I beg all of you to unselfishly dedicate your hearts today to patriotic things. Forget your difficulties and give your heart to patriotic thoughts and realize that above everything that makes a people great is devotion to the Christian Religion and the things for which the ministers of the gospel stand and patriotic things for which the State and the united Nation stand.

Yes, these heroes, a few of them are with us, are not numerous. They are passing away, God bless them! In their places we have coming the boys of the American Legion—the boys who, when the World conflagration spread over the earth, went across the seas and upheld the glories of Lee and Jackson.

I like to think that when our armies went through the Hindenburg line, the most impregnable defense the Germans had, that when we went through that impregnable defense, the two infantry regiments that went through were led by two sons of majors in the armies of the Confederacy—General Jack Metts and General Sidney Minor. A large majority of the soldiers in their command were North Carolina boys, sons of those men who handed in their guns at Appomattox.

North Carolinians, forget the inconsequential question of the price of cotton and tobacco and remember that is the material thing, but that the everlasting things are the things that this day and this occasion suggest, and in spite of the other, unselfish loyalty to these things will mean happiness everlasting.

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