

# The Roanoke Rapids Herald

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## Northampton's "Grand Old Man" Peacefully Passes to the Great Beyond

Death Claimed, Capt. Thomas Williams Mason Yesterday Morning at 10:00 o'clock at His Home, "Longview", Near Garysburg. Family at His Bedside

Funeral Services This Afternoon at Garysburg, M. E. Church

Interment Will be Made in Church Graveyard, His Pastor, Assisted by Rev. Lewis N. Taylor, Officiating

Captain Thomas Williams Mason, one of the most noted citizens of Eastern North Carolina, died at his home, "Longview", near Garysburg yesterday morning at the age of 83. Funeral services will take place at Garysburg this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock.

Chosen five times to represent Northampton in the General Assembly, Captain Mason was universally considered the most beloved man in Northampton county and the whole of his life was spent in the service of his State. A successful lawyer, he was also one of the largest land owners of the section.

Volunteering in the Civil War when but a boy he served throughout that bitter struggle, fought attached to the staff of General Robert Ransom as captain.

Captain Mason graduated from the University of North Carolina and studied law at the University of Virginia. In 1885 he was elected to his first term in the State Senate and was a member from 1885 to 1895 of the North Carolina Railroad Commission, upon the formation of that body.

In 1885 Captain Mason was the nominee of the Democratic party in the United States Senate, but was defeated in the election by Senator Marion Butler. In 1896 he was also the candidate of the party for Lieutenant Governor on the ticket with Cyrus son, of Winston-Salem.

Even in his latter years Captain Mason was actively interested in public affairs and in 1915 represented his county for the fifth and last time in the General Assembly, sitting in the Senate beside his grandson, Senator William Lunsford Long, of Halifax, president pro tempore of the 921 Senate. Although then in feeble health, Captain Mason, deeply stirred by the cause of his country, in the war with many and was a leader in his State in all patriotic movements.

Captain Mason was born in Brunswick county, Virginia but moved to Northampton county shortly after his marriage, when his wife was Miss Bettie Gray daughter of Major William Gray, of Northampton county. He is survived by two daughters, Mrs. M. Long and Miss Ruth Mason, and the following grandchildren: Senator W. L. Long, Dr. T. W. M. Long, and Mrs. G. Jarman, all of Roanoke Rapids, and W. J. Long and L. Long, of Garysburg.

**GOLDEN-HEARTED GENTLEMAN**  
(Raleigh News and Observer)

When he passed to the Better World yesterday Capt. Thomas Williams Mason, of Northampton county, full of years, full of life, full of everything that makes a gentleman, a patriot, a scholar, a Christian. Recalling a long and useful and unselfish life it may be truly said of him that he was a "suncrowned" man who "lived above the fog of public duty and private thinking." Gracious in manner, loving in disposition, without a trace of self-seeking, he had earned to himself a wealth of respect and confidence and esteem. He had one fault it was that he lacked the ambition to step into places for which he was eminently fitted, standing aside to let his friends more desirous of

preference should realize their ambitions. But, while others held positions of more prominence, Captain Mason won gratitude and distinction for service in war and in peace. He entered the Confederate Army as a boy. All his life the Cause was dear to him, indeed sacred, and no man incarnated the spirit of Robert E. Lee more than Thomas W. Mason.

Captain Mason served long as trustee of the University of North Carolina, as member of the State Democratic Executive Committee, often as delegate to great gatherings of the Methodist church, of which he was a devoted member, several times as member of both branches of the General Assembly, as Railroad Commissioner and in other positions of trust and honor. Public position brought no distinction to him and he was not dependent upon official status. He conferred honor by public service and every honor given him came unsought. Integrity was of his fibre and love of country made up the warp and woof of his being. In 1895 he was the caucus nominee of his party for United States Senator. He looked the part, and it was a misfortune to the State that a Fusionist secured the toga which seemed made for him. In 1896, the year when Russell was elected, Captain Mason was the Democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor, and when Mr. Watson became ill his canvass of the State was brilliant and uplifting.

Few men have lived in the State who possessed such eloquence. At his best, for he had to feel deeply to reach the heights, he spoke with a spirit and compelling eloquence which moved all privileged to sit under the spell of his utterance. Three speeches made by Captain Mason, recalled by this writer, stand out among the noblest delivered in North Carolina in a generation.

The first was at the celebration of the Centennial of the University. A score of the State's first citizens spoke. When Captain Mason rose to speak the years fell from him and the in-rush of memories and the passion of love for his alma mater so possessed him that as he spoke his audience felt a thrill such as only once in a lifetime sways an audience. It was electrical and the cadence of his rich voice has not yet died away.

The second effort which will abide, for it was written, was his address at the laying of the cornerstone of the Confederate monument on the west front of the Capitol Square in May, 1894. The love and devotion of the Daughters of the Confederacy had made possible its erection and there gathered a great concourse of people to witness the foundation of a memorial long desired. The theme and the man met. Mason was the young Confederate in heart that day. He envisioned and glorified his comrades. Their deeds were immortal. He made a fitting eulogy, and as the throngs left the grounds there was a deeper appreciation of the men in gray than youths had felt before.

That masterpiece of eulogy was alone enough to give distinction to one gifted to speak his comrades "fair in death."

## WITH THE CHURCHES

### METHODIST CHURCH

Rev. L. B. Jones, Pastor  
Sunday School at 9:45 W. V. Woodruff, Supt.  
Preaching by the pastor at 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M.  
A. M. - Voluntary. The Lord is My Light.  
Offertory. Duet God is Love.  
P. M. - Voluntary. Watchman What of the Night.  
Offertory. Spirit of Faith.  
All are cordially invited to these services.

### All Saints Church

(Episcopal)  
Rev. Lewis N. Taylor, Rector  
Roanoke Avenue  
Miss Mary Duke, Parish Visitor  
Next Sunday is the Third Sunday after Easter.  
Services: 7:30 A. M. Holy Communion.  
9:45 Church School T. W. Mullen, Supt. Morning service at 11. Night service 7:30.  
The Church with a welcome

### Presbyterian Church

Rev. Stanley White, Pastor  
Mr. Stange, Organist  
Mr. J. H. Harrison, S. S. Supt.  
Sunday School 10:00 A. M.  
Morning Service 11:00 A. M.  
Christian Endeavor 7:00 P. M.  
Evening service 7:45 P. M.  
Prayer Meeting on Wednesday 7:30 P. M.  
The sermon Sunday morning will be on "What I Can do to Kill the Church," and on Sunday night "A Recipe for a Triumphant Life."  
Special music is arranged for each service by Lucy Crisp, choir director.

The rural and city schools expect to present in Weldon on the sixth day of May a joint production of Halifax County's picturesque history. The pageant will be impossible without the absolute co-operation of the community people in each group. The hearty support and loyal service of each town and community will be needed greatly in the interest of making our pictorial presentation of Halifax County's history worthy of her glorious past, her ennobling present, and her future greatness.

## Historical Pageant

The Pageant has been divided into four periods as follows:  
1. Indian and Pioneer Period.  
2. Revolutionary Period.  
3. Civil War Period.  
4. Modern Period.

Roanoke Rapids will furnish the attendant water sprites of the Spirit of the Roanoke, a chorus, also soldiers and citizens of the Revolutionary Period. You can assist to a great extent by helping to locate and plan suitable costumes for men, women and children of the above mentioned periods. The chairman of the costume committee for your community is Mrs. J. M. Jackson. Report to her at your earliest convenience what definite help may be expected of you along this line for your group.

No doubt you can get in touch with a number of original dresses, uniforms, hats, swords, guns, flags, Indian relics, etc., that could be used in other periods than your own. If this is possible, report same to your chairman. Other communities will share with you likewise. In this way, we can be of mutual benefit not only to our own group but to the County as a whole.

## A Warning

The individual or individuals who have been disturbing the property of the Presbyterian Church are hereby warned that their activities will be no longer tolerated. The police have been notified, and the offenders if caught, will be dealt with through due process of the law.

## Honor Roll For Seventh Month

ROSEMARY SCHOOL  
Grade 1—A Eva May Roberts, James Daniel, Elmer Daniel, Montie Williams, Blanton Hargrove, Ruby Conn, Elizabeth Parks, Nellie Runk, Effie Simpkins.  
Grade 1—B Esther Smith, Elva Kendrick, Earl Coker.  
Grade 1—D Arleen Batton, Ethel Bullion, Florence Carr, Ruby Garner, Baulah Miller, Virginia Ogletree, Phala Vick, Yates Brown, Francis Cobb.  
Grade 1—E Julia Crutchfield, Lois Smith, Nina Harriss, Fen-

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## ROSEMARY PERSONAL AND LOCAL ITEMS

Mr. C. L. Maness, of Norfolk, spent Monday in Rosemary.

Mr. George Swartz, of Lester, Penn., was a visitor in town this week.

Miss Pearl Fleming spent Monday in Rocky Mount.

Mr. Monroe G. Jenkins is spending the week in New York City.

Mr. T. M. Dobson, of Richmond spent Tuesday and Wednesday in town.

Hon. D. H. Tillett, Grand Master of the Odd Fellows Fraternity of North Carolina was the guest of honor at a social gathering of the fraternity held in the local lodge rooms Saturday night. He made an illuminating address on the principles and work of the order. A large number of guests were present in addition to the members of the lodge. Several short addresses were made following the principal address and at the close of the meeting refreshments were served.

Mr. Fred Peck left Monday morning for Greensboro.

Messrs. L. G. Shell and G. L. Hayes, Jr., left Wednesday for New York.

Mr. Charles Goodrich, of Richmond, was in town Wednesday.

Messrs. E. J. and J. D. Baldwin, of Chattanooga, Tenn., were in town this week.

Mr. N. H. Johnson, of New York City was here Tuesday.

Rev. Chas. M. Lance, Mrs. S. H. Huff and Miss Annie Medlin left Thursday night to attend the Women's Missionary Council in Richmond, Va.

Mr. W. S. Davis, of Norfolk was here Tuesday.

Mr. Edward T. Alston, Jr., of Henderson, spent Tuesday in Rosemary.

Mr. Ben M. Pugn, of Thelma, was here Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. R. E. Jerome, of the U. S. N., visited friends here this week.

Mrs. H. M. Poe, of Rocky Mount, was the guest of her sister, Mrs. A. G. Carter, Saturday.

Mr. Harry Wood, of High Point was in town Wednesday.

Misses Bessie and Edmonia Wilkins, of Northampton County, were in Rosemary Wednesday.

Rev. Chas. M. Lance is spending several days in Raleigh.

Mrs. A. B. Carr, of Norfolk, was the guest of Mrs. W. C. Williams this week.

Mr. C. L. Peele, formerly with the Coburn Motor Co., of Norfolk, has accepted a position as head mechanic of the W. F. Joyner Motor Co.

Mr. John L. Patterson, of Richmond was here Tuesday.

Mr. Reginald H. Joyner, of Northampton County was in town Wednesday morning.

Mr. E. C. Kendrick, of New York City, spent Tuesday in Rosemary.

H. H. Smith, of Norfolk, was in town Tuesday.

Mrs. Virginia Dromgoole was a visitor in Rosemary Wednesday.

Mr. N. L. Walker, of Raleigh, was here Monday.

Mr. Russell Moody, of Northampton Co., was here Wednesday.

Mr. R. D. Jenkins went to Greensboro last Friday to place an adopted child in his new home. Returning home he left immediately on a like mission for Gates County.

Mrs. J. M. Beckwith is attending the meeting of the Presbyterian of the Albemarle Presbytery which meets in New Bern, April 13th, 14th and 15th.

Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Hayes and son, Mrs. Charlena Hart and Mrs. J. M. Grizzard motored to Mr. Hayes' home, Palmer Springs, Sunday returning Monday.

The Presbyterian Woman's Auxiliary will meet with Mrs. S. P. Scott on next Tuesday.

## POWELLTOWN ITEMS

The host of friends of Mr. Davis Hawkins are sorry to hear that he is very ill at the home of his son, E. R. Hawkins, in South Rosemary.

Mrs. Burler White and her little son, of Norfolk, Va., were in South Rosemary the past week end. Mrs. White was called to the bedside of her father, Mr. Davis Hawkins.

The debate on the "League of Nations," which was to have taken place at South Rosemary on last Friday evening, was postponed on account of the inclement weather.

Rev. Lance will preach at Smith's Church Sunday morning at eleven o'clock. Sunday School at 10 o'clock.

## GARNER SCHOOL ITEMS

Miss Haddy Lewis spent the week-end with Miss Lillian Frazier.

Dr. Dallas Zollicoffer will make an address at Garner School Sunday P. M. at 3:30. Everyone is invited to be present.

Mrs. T. A. Cooper of Weldon, spent Sunday with her brother in Roanoke Rapids.

Miss Katie Collier returned home Friday on account of illness.

Miss Sue Bett Overstreet spent Sunday in her home at Enfield.

## Safe at S. A. L. Station Blown Wednesday Night

The safe in the office of the Seaboard agent was cracked Wednesday night, evidently by professional yeggmen. The door was literally blown to pieces.

Mr. Eubanks, the agent and Mr. White, the express man, left the office about nine o'clock. The safe was blown about one A. M. Mr. Parker was passing the station just as the safe was blown and heard the noise, which was not sufficient to attract his attention, or either too significant for him to investigate alone.

Fortunately there was not very much money in the safe, probably \$100. However there were checks given by local firms amounting to over \$10,000.

People living across the street from the building did not hear the explosion and the discovery was not made until Thursday.

The yeggmen left no clue, however blood hounds were brought in an attempt to locate the criminals or at least trace the direction in which they departed.

## Work on New Telephone "Central" Being Pushed

At last the new switch board for the local telephone exchange has arrived. Linemen and cable splicers have been busy here now for some days. The switch-board man is here, and in a few days other gangs will arrive to push the work of changing over to the automatic system as fast as possible.

The change to the automatic system will require the re-wiring of the entire system which means a lot of work to be done before the new central can be cut in. Although Mr. Porter, the general manager of the company hope to have the work completed by the 15th of next month.

## FRATERNAL NOTES

Carolina Lodge No. 225 I. O. O. F. at its regular meeting Monday night, April 11, 1921, in W. O. W. Hall, Rosemary, N. C. referred one application to a committee. Several of the Bros. made interesting talks under the head of the good of the order, which was enjoyed by their usual attendance, and especially the remarks by Bro. J. H. Davenport, who has been away for the past two years. On next Monday night April 18, the degree Captian will drill the degree team for the initiatory degree on April 25, so every member of the degree team is urged to attend promptly at 8 P. M. Visitors always welcome at the meetings of this lodge.

## ROANOKE RAPIDS PERSONAL AND LOCAL ITEMS

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Garthright have left for Portsmouth to make their home.

Misses Verna Davenport and Louise Grooms, of Richmond, spent the week-end here visiting Miss Lena Rivers Jones.

Mrs. E. A. A. Parker and children left Sunday for Tarboro after spending some time here in the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Bounds.

Messrs. J. T. Stainback, J. R. Manning and W. T. Council attended the ball game at Wake Forest Saturday.

Mrs. T. M. Stone, of Henderson, is spending some time here in the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Williams.

Mrs. J. P. Wrenn and children, left Tuesday for their home in Henderson after spending a few days here in the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Williams.

Miss Alice Coleman spent the week-end out of town with relatives.

Miss Ethel Leatherwood spent the week-end at Snow Hill visiting friends.

Mr. Fred Peck left Monday for his new home in Greensboro.

Mr. W. W. Kidd and family of Warrenton, spent the week-end here with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Outland and daughter spent the week end in Richmond.

Miss Louise Smith, of Bethel, spent the week-end here with her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Cohen, of Enfield, spent Sunday here in the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. Marks.

Misses Ethel Kelly, Elizabeth Moore and Pettick and Mr. Long, of Jackson, spent Monday here on business.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. House and Mrs. Hale, of Wilson, spent a few hours in town Sunday.

Mrs. J. M. Rice is spending some time in Raleigh with her daughter.

Dr. and Mrs. Job Taylor are spending some time in New York.

Miss Ruth Rainey spent the week-end in Northampton County visiting Mrs. B. F. Byrum.

Mr. J. H. Harrison spent Wednesday in Richmond on business.

Mrs. R. B. Lawson left Thursday for her home in South Boston after spending several days here with her parents.

Mr. Herbert Brantley spent several days here this week with relatives.

Mrs. R. M. Hudson and children, of Henderson, are visiting relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Marks and Mr. Abe Norinsky spent a few days in Richmond this week.

Mr. J. R. Manning spent a few days in Richmond this week on business.

## Mr. James R. Matthews

Mr. James R. Matthews, well known citizen of the county died at the State Farm Friday morning of pneumonia. He had been a guard there for twenty odd years. A devoted wife and four children survive. He was an uncle of Mr. J. T. Garner, of Rosemary. The body was brought to Mr. Garner's home Saturday and funeral services were held in the afternoon, Rev. A. G. Carter officiating. Interment was made in Cedarwood Cemetery.

## McKinney-Culbreath

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wynne request the honor of your presence

at the marriage of their sister Evelyn Isabelle McKinney to

Mr. Clarence Evans Culbreath on Friday evening, April fifteenth

nineteen hundred twenty-one at the hour of eight

at the First Baptist Church Tampa, Florida