

STRIKING INCIDENT OF THE WAR

Chief Justice Walter Clark Tells of Rescue of Federal Officer Who Gave Masonic Signal of Distress

Chief Justice Walter Clark recently visited at Monroe and was taken to the famous "Waxhaw Settlements". On his return to Raleigh he sent the appended letter to Editor R. F. Beasley of the Monroe Journal relating in a striking incident of the war and giving other interesting historical information.

My dear Mr. Beasley:

Our party will always remember with pleasure our visit to your town and county and the courtesy of the ladies and gentlemen who welcomed us so cordially and went with us to the "Waxhaw Settlements." We feel especially indebted to you. There is probably no ground with more historical associations in this State than that section.

Years ago I read Parton's life of Andrew Jackson with the affidavits, nearly all from South Carolinians, fixing the locality of the birthplace of Andrew Jackson and have recently reread them. A visit to the spot and the surroundings made clearer the truthfulness of his statement that Jackson was born in North Carolina. The home of his father and mother on Twelve Mile creek was many miles in North Carolina. At his death, his body was carried for burial to the Waxhaw church which is over the line in South Carolina, but his widow returned to North Carolina to the residence of her brother-in-law, Mr. McKemie, where her son was born soon after his father's death. Not very long after his birth his mother removed to the home of another brother-in-law, Major Robert Crawford, two or three miles down the road and on the west of it, where the first few years of Andrew's life was spent. It is owing to this, and the fact that the State line was not definitely located till 1848 that any confusion arose.

The visit we made on Saturday made clear the tenor of the affidavits collected by Parton who visited the spot in person, before the war. At that point the State line runs for several miles north and south approximately with the Camden and Charlotte road, locally known as the "Steel Creek road." Jackson's birthplace, very appropriately marked by a neat memorial erected by the Daughters of the Revolution on the spot where the residence stood, is some 300 yards east of this line but about four miles north of the South Carolina line after it corners and runs due east and west to the Pee Dee river. The home of his father and mother, as I have said, was in North Carolina, several miles north of his birthplace. Standing at his birthplace we were shown in the distance the locality where was fought the battle of "Wahabs" sometimes called "the Waxhaw fight." The road running close by the birthplace goes on south to the spot of Buford's Massacre, and Camden where Gates suffered his great defeat. Along this road Gates made his hurried retreat with Cornwallis and Tarleton in hot pursuit. In full view of the west, some 30 miles or more is King's Mountain. Camden is some 30 miles south, while Charlotte is less than 25 miles north. At Major Robert Crawford's, where Jackson spent his early years, President George Washington according to his diary spent a night on his return from his southern trip. It will be remembered that he went south by way of Halifax, Tarboro, New Bern, and Wilmington and returned by this road to Charlotte, Salisbury and Salem and at the latter spot there is still shown the house where he spent a night and day.

Not far from Jackson's birthplace is the old Waxhaw church, which we visited, where repose the remains of many Revolutionary heroes and of others who became distinguished in the State and Nation in later years. Near the grave of Jackson's father is the tomb of Gen. William R. Davie, with the classic inscription written by his friend, Gaston, which is said to have no superior among mortuary memorials. Davie was probably the most distinguished soldier from North Carolina in the Revolution, though he was then a very young man, having been born in 1756, in this section, which is also the scene of many of his exploits. He married a daughter of Gen. Allen Jones of Northampton, located in Halifax where his residence is still standing, became a member of the legislature, Governor of the State, member of Congress and special Ambassador to France. Before he was yet 50 years of age, quitting public life, he removed to Lansford, two miles from the Waxhaw church, in the immediate neighborhood of his birthplace and died there in 1820. In 1798 when war with France was imminent he was appointed a general at the special solicitation of George Washington, who was made commander-in-chief. In 1812 he was tendered by President Madison the appointment of Major General in the regular army which he declined and William H. Harrison was then appointed in his place who won the battle of Tippe-

canoe and the Thames and thus became eventually President.

The whole of this section is classic ground full of historical associations and has been described in the well-known novel "Horseshoe Robinson."

In 1862-5 in the 35 North Carolina Regiment, commanded by Col. Matt W. Ransom, later Confederate Brigadier General and after the war for 23 years U. S. Senator, was Company F from Union county with a few men from Mecklenburg. Many of these soldiers were doubtless descendants of the men from the Waxhaws who served their country during the Revolution. This company was at first commanded by Capt. T. W. Redwine who was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1875 and who after more than 60 years passed in the practice of the medical profession has passed away full of honors at the ripe age of 84. His son is one of the most distinguished members of the bar in the State. The first Lieutenant of that company, afterwards Captain, was Sanford G. Howie who is now also dead. At one time I was 1st Lieutenant and Adjutant of that regiment and my visit to your county recalls an incident of the battle of Sharpsburg, Md., (which the Federals called "Antietam") which may be of some interest to the few survivors of Co. F and to their friends and relatives in your county, as well as to the Masonic brethren throughout the State.

The battle of Sharpsburg or Antietam, Md., was one of the most critical and bloody battles of the war. It was fought by the Confederates in a bend of the Potomac river with their backs to the river and if our lines had been broken not one Confederate could have escaped on that day. It was styled the "Soldier's battle" for there was no room for generalship. When all our reinforcements were in, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the Confederates numbered only 33,000 while McClellan's morning rolls, on file, show that he had over 100,000 in line at daybreak. But of course he was not aware of this disparity. Our regiment belonged to the brigade commanded by Gen. Robert Ransom, Walker's Division and under the immediate command of Gen. Stonewall Jackson. About 9 o'clock in the morning, our command drove the enemy out of the "West Woods," which had already been twice fought over by McLaw's division and then by Hood's Texans. The enemy made five successive assaults during the day, by five different corps but was each time driven back. The position of our brigade was on the eastern edge of the West Woods and near the Dunkard church, where our regiment charged and captured a section of artillery, Co. B 2 U. S. Regulars. You will find a description of the battle in the N. C. Regimental Histories in your Court House in Vol. 5, pp. 71-82. Just after the second assault was repulsed, an officer from another part of the regiment came to Col. Ransom who happened to be immediately in the rear of Co. F and told him that a wounded man some fifty yards in front of his company had given the masonic signal of distress. He added that he thought he was an officer of high rank because the commander of the brigade who came up with the first line on horseback had his horse killed under him at the turnpike and he had then led his men on foot and when he was shot down at that spot some fifty yards in front of his company the enemy's line had broken and gone back. Lieutenant Howie and I being young officers nearest at hand volunteered to go out to bring him in. We were moved by the latter consideration for I was at that time just a few days over 16 and knew nothing of Masonry, and I do not think Lieutenant Howie was a Mason for he could have been very little over 21. Col. Ransom, however was a Mason and permitted us, though with reluctance, to make the attempt. All this time we were under a heavy shelling from the enemy's batteries nearly a mile away across the Antietam and the broken but reformed lines of the enemy were lying down in our front and had thrown out a line of skirmishers who kept up a dropping fire to let us know that they were there and to discourage our advancing. When we two emerged from the edge of the woods we expected a volley, but among the enemy's skirmishers there must have been some Masons who had heard the masonic signal of distress for to our surprise while the firing to the right and left was kept up it immediately ceased in our front. We could hardly avoid stepping on the dead and wounded, the ground was so thickly covered, but when we reached the spot we found an officer badly wounded in the left shoulder and arm who proved to be Col. Francis Winthrop Palfrey, of the 19 Mass. Regiment who had commanded the brigade and lying by him on the ground was his Adjutant who was wounded but who had remained to protect his Colonel which he was doing by clamping with his hand the severed artery, and it was he who had

sent the masonic signal. With his aid, we brought Colonel Palfrey back, his artery was protected by a tourniquet and at the first lull in the shelling they were sent to the rear. He begged to keep his side arms because he said the gold mounted and very handsome sword had been presented to him. On inspection of it later we found on the blade the words "Presented to Lieutenant Colonel Francis Winthrop Palfrey 19 Mass. Volunteers by the town of Concord, Mass." On the reverse of the blade was the latin motto of his State, which means in English, as you know, "By the sword, we seek peace."

Colonel Palfrey was very reluctant to surrender his sword which he did upon assurance that it would be preserved and returned to him after the war. Lieutenant Howie took his sword while his pistol, a remarkably handsome one fell to me. They offered us their watches, which, of course, we refused but cautioned them to conceal them or our Provost guard would get them.

We never expected to see or hear of Col. Palfrey again, but as I learned after the war owing to his wounds he soon exchanged and promoted for his gallantry in this battle to Brigadier General and again commanded his brigade in the battle of Fredericksburg, 13th December of that same year. We know nothing of that however, for our brigade at that battle was not in his front but on Mayre's Heights where Co. F from Union county aided in repulsing seven successive assaults the chief of which was led by Thomas Francis Meagher's Irish brigade with the green flag and "Sunburst." After the war when Gen. Ransom was a candidate for the U. S. Senate he mentioned to me one day at Weldon that he had received a letter from General Palfrey inquiring about his sword. I recalled the incident to his memory and wrote to Capt. Howie who according to promise had kept the sword which he sent to Senator Ransom at Washington who delivered it to one of the Massachusetts Senators. The other weapons mentioned had been given by us to friends or lost, and could not be traced.

I was deeply impressed by the masonic incident and especially by the cessation of the fire when we went out to the wounded officer, expecting a volley. After the war, as soon as I became of the requisite age, I joined the masonic fraternity. When on the Superior Court Bench at the court held in your county in the spring of 1888 I met Col. Howie and the survivors of his company and we all recalled this incident. It is mentioned in the "Regimental Histories" but not as fully as it is given here.

Some years later, when editing the "Regimental Histories" at the request of the Confederate Veterans of this State, I wrote to several Northern Generals to verify data and among others to General Palfrey. His widow wrote me a very courteous reply stating that her husband was dead but that he had written a volume "Antietam and Fredericksburg" of which she sent me a copy, which I still have in my library.

The survivors of Co. F will remember the above incident and it may be of some slight interest to others among your large circle of readers, especially the friends of Captain Howie.

Most truly yours,

WALTER CLARK.

Raleigh, Sept. 13, 1915.

BABIES THRIVE ON SUFFRAGE.

Women Use Statistics to Refute an Old Theory.

New York Evening Post.

The Empire State Campaign Committee has assembled statistics in an effort to refute the theory that votes for women means fewer children. The committee compares Colorado with Maine. With almost the same population, but with 2,000 fewer mothers, Colorado had 18,913 estimated births in 1910, while Maine had 17,118. In Maine, the figures show, 1,743 babies died in their first year, while the number in Colorado was nearly 100 less. The committee also puts California down as the "Banner Baby State" for the year, having a larger percentage of births than any other State.

The lowest infant mortality figures in the United States are to be found in the suffrage city of Seattle, Wash. These are only a little higher than in equal-suffrage Australia and New Zealand, which have the best infant mortality records in the world. Close on the heels of Seattle comes Oakland, Cal., with an 87.2 mortality of infants to every 1,000 live births. The highest infant mortality in the United States is in Massachusetts and in the cities of Fall River and Lowell.

Four male suffrage States in the Union, whose population about parallels California's, lose from 1,000 to 2,000 more babies every year than California loses. One of these States is New Jersey.

Details of a curious family complication come from St. Gall, Switzerland. A naturalized Swiss citizen, German by birth, is married to a Hungarian. His brother-in-law is fighting against the Servians and the husband of his sister-in-law is fighting against the Austrians. Of the man's two brothers, one is in a Prussian regiment and the other is serving France under General Gallieni.

WAR KEEPS ENTIRE ROYAL FAMILY BUSY

All King of Italy's Adult Relatives Either Fighting or Nursing

Rome Correspondence New York Sun.

The war has brought hard work to the entire Italian royal family. King Victor Emmanuel is at the front in supreme command of the army, and his two cousins, the Duke of Aosta and the Count of Turin, are each in command of an army corps. The Duke of the Abruzzi is commander in chief of the Italian fleets and the Prince of Udine, another cousin of the King, is in command of a submarine flotilla. There are two sons of the Duke of Aosta in the army, both serving in the ranks as volunteers, and a son of the Duke of Genoa, the King's uncle, is a sub-lieutenant of artillery. The Duke of Genoa has been appointed lieutenant-general or viceroy during the King's absence from Rome.

Queen Elena, Dowager Queen Margherita, the Duchess of Aosta and Princess Letitia are all working hard in connection with Red Cross hospitals and the organization of relief for soldiers' families. As soon as war was declared Queen Elena insisted on overseeing all arrangements for wounded and sick soldiers, and, despite the admirable organization of the Army Medical Corps and the Red Cross, her experience served to improve even what was supposed to be perfect.

The Queen has been interested in hospital work ever since her girlhood, when under her mother's tuition she learned lessons in attending to wounds. Every woman in Montenegro is expected to know all about minor surgery, as the Montenegrin army has no medical corps and the women must take care of the wounded soldiers.

When the Princess of Montenegro became Queen of Italy her first work of mercy was tending the wounded in a serious railroad accident at Castel Giubileo near Rome. It was due to the Queen's efforts that relief and rescue work was started promptly after the Messina earthquake and again during the recent Avezzano earthquake when the work was harder as medical supplies, blankets and provisions had all been sent to the front for the war then expected at any moment and the relief of the earthquake survivors was almost a hopeless task.

The Queen delegated the Duchess of Aosta, who graduated as a Red Cross nurse during the Tripoli war, to take her place as directress-general of the Red Cross. This post is undoubtedly the most exacting ever held by a member of a royal family, since it means a continuous and complete inspection of every base and reserve hospital in Italy. It is roughly estimated that, excluding the field hospitals and ambulances at the front, which are in charge of the Army Medical Corps, there are at least 5,000 hospitals scattered throughout Italy in hotels, convents, private palaces, schools, etc. The Duchess of Aosta has to travel from one end of Italy to another inspecting these hospitals. She is accompanied by Sister Caroline, an English nursing sister, who took care of the Duke of Aosta when he was seriously ill with typhus last year.

Dowager Queen Margherita, after spending nearly all the summer in Rome until the hospital she opened in the Palazzo, or small palace, in the garden of her villa, was ready, has gone north for a short rest. Her hospital is a model of perfection, and it is equipped with all modern improvements for surgical and medical cases. Queen Margherita has regained all the popularity which seemed to have reverted to Queen Elena. Her reply to the Kaiser's telegram asking her to plead with her son and avert a war between Italy and Germany conclusively proved that although a good Catholic she, unlike the majority of Italian clericals, is not a neutralist. Despite her age, the Queen mother has been indefatigable in visiting hospitals and workrooms. She has contributed largely toward the relief of soldiers' families and equipped at her expense an entire hospital train.

The war has rejuvenated the King. The open air life he leads at the front has benefited his health. He is no longer nervous, and the characteristic twitching of his mouth has disappeared. Although not robust in appearance, the King can stand fatigue and even lack of sleep better than his aids, younger men who follow the King everywhere and have to take occasionally a few days leave for a rest. Victor Emmanuel never sleeps more than six hours, and he spends the remaining eighteen of each day in motoring along the front, visiting all the encampments. Recently the King happened to pass near a position where almost an entire army corps was massed preparatory to advancing against the enemy. The men cheered the King wildly, and the demonstration was so spontaneous and sincere that even the Generals who accompanied him were moved and joined the soldiers in shouting "Evviva il Re!"