SCRAP BOOK

Old Halifax
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OLD HALIFAX

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In his recent book, "Sunlight on the Southside," Mr. Landon C. Bell discusses the routes of emigrants from Virginia into the Southwest, and calls attention to "the tide of emigration which flowed from Virginia into North Carolina and Tennessee, and thence into Kentucky and the west.

Long before this Virginia "tide of emigration" started Westward and Southwestward over the "Wilderness Road" about the middle of the eighteen century, people from the Tidewater and Southside sections of the Colony of Virginia had begun to move South and to settle in the eastern part of North Carolina; and the records of those eaastern Carolina counties give abundant evidence of the settlements of early Virginians in them who participated in this movement.

Not far south of the "Dividing Line" betweenn the two Colonies lay the county of Halifax, formed in 1758 from Edgecombe County; and Colonel William Byrd, who left a history of the establishment of that famous "Line," and who was not very complimentary to North Carolina, said of these neighbors:

"The borderers laid it to heart if their land was taken in Virginia; They chose much rather to belong to Carolina, where they pay no tribute to God or Ceasar."

Due, says Mr. Bell, to the fact that this early migration of settlers from Tidewater and Southside Virginia into North Carolina has been "inadequately understood," and little pains have been taken by the historians and genealogists to group and record the facts concerning it, the specific debt of North Carolina to these sections of the older part of the Colony has been little recognized. As an illustration of his statement, he states that the Carolina historians and genealogists "are yet ignorant of the rate and place of birth of one (and the same is doubtless true of others) of the mist distinguished of men connected with the early historyy of that Colony ond State."

This was Willie Jones, of Halifax, who he says "was born in Albemarle Parish, Surry County, Virginia, May 25, 1741."

Halifax County, North Carolina, derives its name from the Earl of Halifax, who in 1758 was the first Lord of the Board of Trade. It is situated in the northeastern part of the State, and is bounded on the north and east by the Roanoke River, which separates it from Northampton County; on the south by Martin, Edgecombe and Nash counties, and on the west by the county of Warren.

Its county seat is Halifax town, situated on the west bank of the Roanoke; and the county and town in their history are distinguished for their devotion to liberty and for the patriotism of their people. Halifax was represented in the Newbern Convention of 1774 by two of its most eminent citizens, Nicholas Long and William Jones; and in the important Hillsboro Convention, called to act upon the Federal Constitution adopted at Philadelphia in 1787, Willie Jones was the leader and moving spirit who, under Mr. Jefferson's inspiration, prevented its ratification at that time ~~in~~ because it was without a Bill of Rights.

Other distinguished citizens of Halifax in the Revolutionary period were: William R. Davie, a prominent officer in the Colonial armies and later ambassador to France; John Baptista Ahse, a brother-in-law of Willie Jones, who was opposed to the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and later became a member of Congress and Governor of the State; and Nicholas Long, a son of Gabriel Long, of Virginia, and Commissary-General of North Carolina.

Connected with Halifax through his association with Willie Jones, was one of the most celebrated figures in the naval history of the Revolution. Colonel Cadwallader Jones, in his "Genealogical Histry," writing of the two brothers General Allen Jones and Willie Jones, says:

> Gen. Allen Jones resided at Mt Gallant in in Northampton County at the head of Roanoke Falls.
>
> Willie Jones lived at "The Grove," near Halifax. These old mansions, grand in their proportions, were the homes of abounding hospitality. In this connection, I may mention that, when John Paul Jones visited Halifax, then a young sailor and a stranger, he made the acquaintance of those fine old patriots, Allen and Willie Jones; he was a young man but an old tar with a bold, frank sailor-bearing that attracted their attention. He became a frequent visitor at their houses, where he was always welcome. He soon grew fond of them, and a mark of esteem and admiration, he adopted their name, saying that if he lived he would make them proud of it. Thus John Paul became Paul Jones—it was his fancy. He named his ship the "Bon Homme Richard," in compliment to Franklin; he named himself Jones in compliment to Allen and Willie Jones. When the first notes of war

sounded he obtained letters from these brothers to Joseph Hewes, member of Congress from North Carolina, and through his influence received his first commission in the navy. I am now the oldest living descendant of Gen. Allen Jones. I remember my aunt, Mrs. Willie Jones, who survived her husband many years, and when a boy I have heard these facts spoken of in both families."

In her "Women of the Revolution," Mrs. Ellett speaks of Mrs. Willie Jones ,and Mrs. Nicholas Long as exhibiting a patriotic zeal, a noble spirit and a devoton to ther country whch llustrated the attachment of the women to the cause of the Revoluton.

Mrs. Willie Jones was a daughter of Colonel Joseph Montford, a strong patriot, a prominent citizen of Halifax, and a colonel of the Halifax Militia before the outbreak of the war. He was distinguished as a Mason; and died in 1776, just as the Revolution was beginning.

Another of his daughters, as stated married John Baptista Ashe.

Mrs. Willie Jones was famous for her personal beauty, her brilliant wit and her sauvity of manners. She is said to have been "devotedly and enthusiastically loved by every human being who knew her."

It was her individual charm, even more than the admiration which the young Scotch sailor, John Paul, had for her as well as for her husband, that caused him to add Jones to his name, when he left Halifax and went into the American Navy.

When Cornwallis, in 1781, led his army north from Wilmington to its final surrender at Yorktown, he remained several days in Halifax, where some of his officers were quartered among the families of the town. They were treated courteously but coldly by their reluctant hosts; and more than one story has come down of the scars inflicted on the vanity of some of them by the wit of these patriotic women. Colonel Banastre Tarleton, Cornwallis' leader of cavalry, had been wounded in the hand by a sabre cut in a personal encounter on the field with Colonel William Washington. One day at "The Grove," during his stay in Halifax, the Englishman spoke to Mrs. Jones in sneering terms of his recent opponent, saying that he understood that Colonel Washington was an ignorant and illiterate boor, hardly able to write his own name.

"Ah, Colonel," said Mrs. Jones to Tarleton, "you should know better than that, for you carry on your person the proof that he can at least make his mark!"

The English general, Leslie, with some of his officers, was quartered at the house of Mrs. Jones' sister, Mrs. Ashe, during the stay of the invading army in Halifax; and here Tarleton continued his vituperation of Colonel Washington, saying to Mrs. Ashe that he would like to see the American officer, who he understood was insignificant looking and ungainly in person. Mrs. Ashe replied: "Colonel Tarleton, you would have had that pleasure, if you had looked behind you at the battle of the Cowpens!"

Tarleton, enraged, involuntarily grasped the hilt of his sabre. General Leslie at this moment entered the room, and observing the anger of the officer and the sudden agitation of the lady, inquired the cause. She repeated the brief conversation, and Leslie said, with a smile: "Say what you please, Mrs. Ashe, Colonel Tarleton knows better than to insult a lady in my presence."

Colonel William R. Davie was long a resident of Halifax County. He was born in England and came to America at the age of five years. He was a student at Princeton, which he left in 1776 to enter the Continental Army serving in the North, and returned to college after the campaign, where he graduated with the first honors of the college. Again joining the army, he became captain and was severely wounded in the battle of Stono, which temporarily incapisitated him for military service. Again, in 1780, he answered the call to arms, and raised a troop of cavalry and two companies of infantry, equipping them out of his own private funds. He took an active part in the battle of Hanging Rock, of which he wrote a vivid account that is published in Wheeler's "History of North Carolina."

He served successively as captain, major, and colonel, and was at the battles of Guilford Court House and Hobkirk's Hill, and at the evacuation of Camden and the seige of Ninety Six. in 1781, he became commissary general of North Carolina; and at the close of the war resumed the practice of law at Halifax, and married Sarah Jones, daughter of General Allen Jones, and niece of Willie Jones.

He was a brilliant and successful lawyer ,and was in his fifteen years at the bar employed in many of the most important criminal cases in the State.

He held many political offices. In 1787, he was a delegate to the Federal Convention at Philadelphia, upon which, though but thirty-one years old, he made a decided impression by his knowledge and eloquence. He was called away from the convention a few days before its adjournment by an important law case, and his name does not appear among the signers. He was a member of the State Convention at Hillsboro in 1788, and after the later ratification of the Federal Constitution at Fayetteville he was offered by President Washington a district judgeship, which he declined. He served in the General Assembly for a number of terms, and was one of the founders of the State University at Chapel Hill. In 1798, Congress having provided a provisional army of 10,000 men, Colonel Davie was appointed by President Adams brigadier-general and was confirmed by the Senate July 1 of that year. In the same year he was elected Governor and inaugurated December 27.

On June 1, he was appointed by President Adams Ambassador to France and resigned the Governorship to accept that office. He was one of the three men to draw up the treaty with the French Government which was ratified by Congress September 10, 1890. He is said to have been the handsomest and most distinguished looking man of the trio; and the story is told that an eyewitness of their meeting with Napoleon said: "I could but remark that Bonaparte, in addressing the American Legation, seemed to forget that Governor Davie was second in the mission, his attention being more particularly to him."

After his return from France he was appointed, in 1802, by President Jefferson, commissioner for the settlement between North Carolina and the Tuscarora Indians, and under the treaty between the State and he Indian chiefs, the remnant of the Tuscaroras removed to New York.

In November, 1805, General Davie left Halifax to live in South Carolina. During the War of 1812 he was appointed by President Madison major-general in the United States army, and was confirmed by the Senate, but declined the appointment. He died in 1820, and was buried at Waxhaw Churchyard, just across the river from his plantation.

Willie (Pronounced Wiley) Jones, a Virginian by birth, was one of the most important and distinguished figures of the State in the Revolutionary period, and in some respects one of the most remarkable men of his time.

Mr. Claude G. Bowers, in his book: "Jefferson and Hamilton; The struggle for Democracy in America," draws a graphic and accurate portrait of this notable North Carolina lieutenant of Thomas Jefferson in his formation of the Republican party:

In North Carolina Jefferson found a leader cut from his own pattern, an aristocratic democrat, a radical rich man, a consummate politician who made the history that lesser men wrote without mentioning his name—Willie Jones, of Halifax. His broad acres, his wealth, his high social standing were the objects of his pride, and he lived in luxury and wore fine linen while the trusted leader of the masses, mingling familiarly with the most uncouth backwoodsmen, inviting however, only the select to partake of the hospitality of his home. There was more than a touch of the Virginia aristocrat of the time in his habits—he raced, gambled, hunted like a gentleman. Like Jefferson, he was a master of the art of insinuation, a political and social reformer. He loved liberty, hated intolerance, and prevented the ratification of the Constitution in the first State Convenion because of the absence of a Bill of Rights. There he exerted a subtile influence that was not conspicious on the floor. If he was neither orator nor debater, he was a strategist, disciplinarian, diplomat, who fought with velvet gloves —with iron within. A characteristic portrait would show him puffing at his pipe in the midst of his farmer followers, suggesting, insinuating, interspersing his political conversation with discussions of the crops, farming implements, hunting dogs, horses. An Anthony in arousing the passions by subtle hints, he was an Iago in awakening suspicions. Here was the man with the stuff that Jefferson required, generous and lovable in social relations, in politics relentless, hard as iron. He was the Jefferson of North Carolina—"A man . . . the object of more hatred and more adoration than has ever lived in that State."

His home was "The Grove", situated in the southern end of the town of Halifax, near Quanky Creek, built in the year 1765. The house was seated amid beautiful grounds, and nearby its owner maintained a race track, which was used extensively by the residents of the town and by those who came from elsewhere to witness or take part in the races; and he kept a stable of pedigreed horses and is said to have kept a barge on the Roanoke River that was rowed by his liveried negro servants, like Washington's on the Potomac.

At the close of the War Between the States the house was unoccupied, and was taken possession of by the Federal soldiers. Later, it was owned and dwelt in by the families and children of Willie Jones' daughters, Mrs. Eppes and Mrs. Burton. It is now in ruins.

The Jones family came to Virginia from Wales about the middle of the seventeenth century. Robert Jones, grandson of the immigrant, moved to North Carolina, and was the agent of Lord Granville. He was educated at Eton in England, and was appointed Attorney-General for the Colony in 1761. As attorney for the Crown and agent of Granville's extensive domain, he became wealthy and was perhaps the largest landowner on the Roanoke River.

Willie Jones' earliest appearance in politics was in the Provincial Congress that met in Newbern in 1774, and he was a member of the succeeding Colonial conventions of 1775 and 1776. He was a member of the committee in 1776 which prepared a Bill of Rights, modeled on that of George Mason in Virginia, and is believed to have been the chief author of the doc-

ument. He was president of the Committee of Safety, and Acting Governor until the election of the first Governor after the establishment of the State.

In 1787 he was elected to the Philadelphia Convention which made the Federal Constitution, but like Patrick Henry in Virginia, who "smelled a rat," he declined to serve. He was a member of the Continental Congress in 1780; and, as stated by Mr. Bowers, was the leader in defeating the adoption of the Constitution by the Hillsboro Convention on account of its lacking a Bill of Rights.

This was his last appearance in public life. He died June 1801 at his summer home "Welcome" near Raleigh and was buried by the side of his little daughter in the cemetery near his home. The chapel of St. Augustine College now stands on the site of this graveyard, and the grave of Willie Jones is said to be beneath the altar.

Colonel Nicholas Long, of Halifax, was another citizen of Virginia extraction and probably of Virginia birth. He was a son of Gabriel Long, of Virginia. His son, Nicholas, was a gallant soldier in the Revolution, and was in the battles of Camden, Cowpens, and Yorktown. He and Major Hogg had the celebrated race after Tarleton at the Cowpens. It is related of the younger Long that in the battle two British cavalrymen pursued him. He wheeled and sought safety in flight: they opened fire and in their hot pursuit became separated. Observing this, he suddenly turned and killed each of them successively with his sabre.

Colonel Nicholas Long's home was "Quanky", in the southern end of Halifax town, on Quanky Creek, oppositeposite "The Grove." He was a wealthy planter, much given to hospitality: and his house was frequented by the many prominent men who visited Halifax. When President Washington made his tour of the South, he is said to have stopped with Colonel Long for several days at "Quanky."

His first wife was Mary Reynolds, and his second was Mary McKinnie, daughter of John McKinnie, and granddaughter of Barnaby McKinnie, who represented Edgecombe County in the Colonial Assembly of 1734.

By his first marriage Colonel Long had two children: Gabriel Long, and Anne Long, who married William Martin, of Halifax. Among the descendants of William and Anne Martin were: William H. Battle, of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, and Kemp Plummer Battle, president of the University of North Carolina. William Martin, 2d, a son of William and Anne Martin, married Betsey Macon, daughter of the Hon. Nathaniel Macon, who John Randolph of Roanoke, said was "the most honest man he ever knew."

Mrs. Ellett, in hed "Women of the Revolution," says of Colonel Nicholas Long's second wife, Mary McKinnie:

Colonel Long was commissary-general of all the forces raised in North Carolina, and superintended the preparation in workshops, erected on his own premises, of implements of war and clothing for the soldiers. His wife was a most efficient cooperator in this business. She possessed great energy and firmness, with mental power of no common order. Her praises were the theme of conversation among the old officers of the army as long as any were left who had known her. She died at about 80 years of age, leaving a numerous offspring.

Mary, a daughter of Colonel Nicholas Long and his wife, Mary McKinnie, was one of the most famous beauties and belles of her day in North Carolina. McCree, in his "Life of Judge Iredell," gives a description written by his brother, Thomas Iredell, of the festivities which followed the marriage of Mary Long to Colonel Basset Stith, of Virginia, in 1790:

Thomas Iredell visited Halifax, July 1790. A letter from him gives a characteristic account of the gay and opulent borough. "The divine Miss Polly Long" had just been married to Bassett Stith, a Virginia beau. The nuptials were celebrated by twenty-two consecutive dinner parties in as many different houses; the dinners being regularly succeeded by dances, and all terminated by a grand ball.

Among the children of Colonel Bassett Stith and Mary Long were: Maria Stith, who married Judge Joseph J. Daniel, one of the three judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, whose other members at the time were Judges Ruffin and Gaston; and Martha Stith, who married Hon. J. R. J. Daniel, attorney-general of the State and for many years member of Congress. A son of J. R. J. Daniel and Martha Stith was General Junius Daniel, C. S. A., a gallant and distinguished officer, who fell in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, May 13, 1864.

Judge Joseph J. Daniel was a native of Halifax, a grandson of William Daniel, of Virginia, who was descended from the Daniel family of the "Northern Neck" of Virginia, which numbered among its members Judge Peter V. Daniel, of the Supreme Court of the United States, and Hon. John Warwick Daniel, for many years United States Senator from Virginia. One of Judge Joseph J. Daniel's grandsons is Hon. George Gordon Battle, the eminent New York lawyer.

Judge Daniel lived in the town of Halifax, and had a country place, "Burncourt," in the county. He achieved great distinction in his early manhood, and was one of the most brilliant lawyers of the State. He was a member of the House of Commons for a number of years, was appointed judge of the Superior Court in 1816, and in 1832 was elevated to the supreme bench, which position he held until his death in 1848.

He was a man of great simplicity, and many stories are told of his artlessness. One who knew him well said that "the most ordinary details of his farm were Dutch to him," and that "he could not even plant a row of corn." Another said that he was kind and charitable and was accustomed to send around his servants with meal and meat to his indigent neighbors. In his time it was no reflection upon a man "to take a drink" with a friend; and whenever he did Judge Daniel always insisted on paying for his own drink.

Chief Justice Ruffin said of him at the time of his death:

"Judge Dainel served his country through a period of nearly thirty-two years acceptably. ably and faithfully. He had a love of learning, an inquiring mind and a memory uncommonly tenacious; and he had acquired and retained a stock of varied and extensive knowledge, and especially became well versed in the history and principles of the law. He was without arrogance or ostentation, even of his learning, had the most unaffected and charming simplicity and mildness of manner, and no other purpose in office than to 'execute justice and maintain truth'; and, therefore, he was patient in hearing argument, laborious and calm in investigation, candid and instructive in consultation, and impartial and firm in decision."

Among the earlier notable citizens of Halifax was John Branch, who was educated at the State University, where he was a fellow-tudent and associate of Thomas H. Benton, who was in the United States Senate when Branch was Secretary of the Navy in President Jackson's Cabinet. During Branch's incumbency of this office occurred the famous episode of the disruption of Jackson's Cabinet over Mrs. Eaton.

Soon after his entrance upon his second term as Senator, he was tendered by President Jackson the portfolio of Secretary of the Navy, which he accepted. John H. Eaton, at that time living in Tennessee, but a native of Halifax County, was made Secretary of War. Thus there was the singular coincidence of two natives of Halifax County being in the President's Cabinet at the same time.

None of the other citizens of Halifax County ever held so many honorable positions as John Branch. He was at different times member of the General Assembly, Governor of the State, Representative in Congress, United States Senator, Secretary of the Navy, and Governor of Florida.

He was a man of incoruptible integrity ,and a high order of ability, with an indomitable will-power and great urbanity.

He died at Enfield, January 4, 1863 and was buried in the cemetery near that town.

Another Virginia-born citizen of Halifax was Governor Hutchings G. Burton, the place of whose nativity was Mecklenburg County in Southside, Virginia. His father, John Burton, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. The son was educated at the Williamsboro Academy and the University of North Carolina, and studied law under Judge Henderson.

In 1810, he was elected Attorney-General of the State, and held the office until 1816, when heresigned. After representing Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, for two terms in the Legislature, on a visit to a former schoolmate, Willie Jones, Jr., he met Sarah, the youngest daughter of Willie Jones, of "The Grove," and sister of his friend, and married her. He immediately became a resident of Halifax, where he continued to practice law. He lived at "The Grove," and represented Halifax in the North Carolina Legislature in 1817. In 1819, he was elected to Congress, and served two terms.

In 1825, he was elected Governor of the State, and was instrumental in the ultimate establishment of a system of public schools. In 1826, he was nominated by President John Quincy Adams as Governor of the Territory of Arkansas, but the nomination was never confirmed by the Senate.

Governor Burton was an eloquent orator and an able debator. He had a summer home in the western part of Halifax County, known as "Rocky Hill," near Ringwood and 20 miles from Halifax. It is now owned by the estate of the late George Eastman, the Kodak magnate. Here he was residing at the time of his death, which occurred on a journey to Texas, where he owned property. On his way to Texas he visited a cousin in Lincoln County, and stopping at the "Wayside Inn" to spend the night, suddenly became ill and died in a few hours on April 21, 1836. He was buried in Unity churchyard in that county.

A prominent citizen of Halifax was John B. Ashe, who has been described as "a determined son of liberty." He was a captain in the Revolutionary Army at the early age of nineteen, fought under General Greene, and was lieutenant-colonel at the battle of Eutaw. He was elected a member of the Continental Congress in 1787 and served until 1788. He was again a member of Congress from 1790 to 1793, and was elected Governor of the State in 1802, but died before his qualification for the office.

Willis Alston, Jr., an ardent follower of Thomas Jefferson, was a native and resident of Halifax County. He was elected a member of Congress in 1799, and held the office until 1815, when he retired. He was again elected in 1815, and served until 1831. For many years he was a member of the North Carolina Legislature, where he occupied a commanding position and greatly influenced legislation.

John Haywood was a resident of Halifax. He was a distinguished lawyer and was Attorney-General of the State and a judge of the Superior Court. He was the earliest reporter of the State and the author of a "Manual of the Laws of North Carolina" and Haywood's "Justice." He subsequently moved to Tennessee, and wrote "A History of Tennessee." He was a leading lawyer of Tennessee and became a judge of the Supreme Court of that State, holding the office at the time of his death in 1826.

John R. J. Daniel was a native of Halifax, where he spent the larger part of his life. He was an able lawyer and was a member of the State Legislature for several terms, and Attorney-General from 1834 to 1841, when he was elected to Congress, serving until 1851. He was a vigorous and fearless speaker and debater; and Thomas H. Benton, in his "Thirty Years," quotes from several of his speeches and accords him praise for his forensic powers. After his first term in Congress, he bought a plantation in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, on the Red River, some twenty miles above Shreveport, where he spent much of his later life, and died there in 1868. He was a cousin of Judge Joseph J. Daniel, and married successively two of the sisters of Judge Daniel's wife, Maria Stith, who were daughters of Colonel Bassett Stith and his wife, "the divine Polly Long." He was the father of General Junius Daniel, C. S. A., who was killed in the battle of Spottsylvania Court House.

There are many other names of distinguished residents and citizens of the county and town of Halifax, whose careers adorn the history of their locality and of the State. Among them were: Bartholomew F. Moore, able lawyer and Attorney-General; Colonel Andrew Joyner, prominent in the politics of the county for many years, a soldier in the War of 1812, a business man of distinction, president of the Roanoke Navigation Company, which operated the first steamboat on the Roanoke, and president of the Weldon & Portsmouth R. R., which afterwards became the Seaboard; his second wife was the widow of Governor Hutchings G. Burton; General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch, brigadier-general in the Confederate States Army, president of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad, member of Congress from the Raleigh District, serving until 1861, when he resigned at the prospect of North Carolina's secession, receiving upon his retirement from Congress the tender from President Buchanan of the Secretaryship of the Treasury, which he declined; and falling in battle at Sharpsburg; Colonel Francis M. Parker, gallant soldier of the Confederacy, who after participating in many battles of the War Between the States was desperately wounded at Spottsylvania and incapacitated for further service; Spier Whitaker, father and son - the father an Attorney-General of the State, who removed before the war to Iowa — the son a Confederate soldier, who served in the ranks of the Confederate Army, participated in many of its battles, and remained steadfast and faithful until the end at Appomattox, becoming after the war chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee, and Superior Court Judge; Walter N. Allen, who after practicing law in Halifax, removed in 1857 to Kansas, where he achieved great reputation as a stalwart Democrat, and as editor of the "Topeka Democrat"; Edward Conigland, born in Ireland, an able and prominent lawyer, and counsel for Governor Holden in his impeachment trial; and Thomas N. Hill, of State-wide reputation as a lawyer, with an extensive practice in the State and Federal courts, whose daughter of Col. Nicholas McKinnie second wife was Mary Amis Long, Long, of Weldon.

Both of the two brigadier-generals from Halifax, General Lawrence O'Bryan Branch and General Junius Daniel, were killed in battle in the War Between the States.

General Daniel was the youngest of the three sons of Hon. J. R. J. Daniel. His two elder brothers died in early manhood. His mother was Martha Stith, daughter of Col. Bassett Stith, of Halifax, and his wife, Mary Long. He was a lineal descendant of John Stith, the immigrant to Virginia, who espoused the cause of Nathaniel Bacon, the younger, in his famous "Rebellion" in Virginia in 1676; and his earliest ancestor on the distaff side was Mary Randolph, daughter of William Randolph, of Turkey Island, Virginia, who was the progenitor of Edmund Randolph, Thomas Jefferson, John Marshall and Robert E. Lee. General Daniel's descent on the Randolph and Stith side was also through the Burvells and Bassetts, of Virginia, who were ancestors of the two Harrison Presidents of the United States.

General Junius Daniel was appointed, in 1846, to the cadetship in the Military Academy at West Point, from which he graduated in 1852, and was stationed for five years at Fort Albuquerque, New Mexico. Resigning

his commission in the army at his father's solicitation, he became a planter, taking charge of his father's plantation on Red River. He married, in October, 1860, Ellen, daughter of Colonel John J. Long, of Northampton County, North Carolina, and upon the beginning of hostilities between the North and South, returned to his native State and entered the service of the Confederacy. He was successively colonel of the Fourth, Fourteenth and Forty-fifth regiments and was commissioned finally a brigadier-general in 1862. After participation in various battles, the troops under his command took part in the battle of Gettysburg, where General Lee accorded him the high praise of saying: "General Daniel, your troops behaved admirably and they were admirably handled." On May 11, 1864, he was killed in battle at Spottsylvania Court House, while leading his brigade in a charge. He was buried in the old Colonial Churchyard at Halifax, and a monument to his memory was, after many years, erected recently there by the patriotic Daughters of the Confederacy.

Mrs. Daniel died in Henderson June 24, 1932, and is buried in the Colonial Churchyard at Halifax by the side of her husband.

Many interesting and romantic legends and stories are connected with the early history of Halifax, among them being that of the Crowells. Two members of the family of Oliver Cromwell emigrated from England to New Jersey after the restoration of the Stuarts, and thence to Halifax where they settled. Wheeler, in his "History of North Carolina," says:

They fled from England, from the political storms that impended over the name and house of the late Protector.

While on the voyage, fearing that persecution would follow from the adherents of Charles II, then on the English throne, they resolved to change the name. This was done with solemn ceremony, and by writing their names each on paper and each cutting from the paper the "m" and casting it in the sea.

The family pedigree on vellum, recording these facts, was with the family in North Carolina in an ornamental chest with other valuables, when by a party of Tarleton's Legion, in 1781, this chest was seized and taken off. These facts are undoubted. The record was again made up from the recollections of the family, and is still preserved among them. From one of them these interesting and curious facts are derived.

Here, in the quiet retreats of North Carolina, the aspiring blood of Cromwell found repose, and in the peaceful precincts of Halifax, the exquisite poetry of Gray was fully realized:

Some village Hampden, who with dauntless breast
The petty tyrant of his fields withstood,
Some mute inglorious Milton here may rest,
Some Cromwell guiltless of his country's blood.

Although, during the four years of the War Between the States from 1861 to 1865, no part of Halifax County was occupied by Federal troops, memories still linger there of the story of its navy yard in a cornfield and of the construction from meagre materials of the Confederate ram, "Albemarle," which was built and launched on the Roanoke River in 1864 for service against the Federal forces and ships in and about Albemarle and Pamlico sounds.

The builder of the "Albemarle" was Peter Evans Smith of Scotland Neck; William H. Smith, his brother, of Scotland Neck, was in charge of supplies and material, and Gilbert Elliott of Elizabeth City, aged 19, was the contractor and in charge of finances. The utmost ingenuity was required of the builder, for he was called upon to invent a twist to bore the holes in the iron to be used as armor in order to facilitate the work. The plans and specifications were prepared by John L. Porter, chief constructor of the Confederate Navy, who with Captain John M. Brooke, had designed and built the famous iron-clad, "Virginia", from the United States frigate "Merrimac", that fought the great sea fight was the "Monitor" in Hampton Roads.

Peter Evans Smith and Gilbert Elliott married sisters of Thomas N. Hill, of Halifax.

Elliott said in his report to the authorities, subsequently published in Vol. V. of the "North Carolina Regimental Histories":

During the spring of 1863, having been previously engaged in unsuccessful efforts to construct war vessels of one sort or another, for the Confederate Government, at one point or another in Eastern North Carolina and Virginia, I undertook a contract with the Navy Department to build an iron-clad gunboat, intended if ever completed, to operate on the waters of Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. Edwards Ferry on the Roanoke River, in Halifax County, North Carolina, about 30 miles below the town of Weldon, was fixed upon as the most suitable for the purpose. The river rises and falls as is well known, and it was necessary to locate the yard on ground free from overflow to admit of uninterrupted work for at least twelve months. No vessel was ever constructed under more adverse circumstances. The shipyard was established in a cornfield, where the ground had already been marked out and planted for the coming crop; but the owner of the land, W. R. Smith, Esq., was in hearty sympathy with the enterprise, and aided me then and afterwards in a thousand ways to accomplish the end I had in view. It was next to impossible to obtain the machinery suitable for the work in hand. Here and there, scattered about the surrounding county, a portable sawmill, blacksmith's forge or other apparatus was found, however, and the citizens of the neighborhoods on both sides of the river were not slow to render me assistance, but cooperated cordially in the completion of the iron-clad, and at the end of about a year from the laying of the keel, during which innumerable dif-

ficulties were overcome by constant application, determined effort and incessant labor day and night, success crowned the efforts of those engaged in the undertaking.

Seizing an opportunity offered by comparatively high water, the boat was launched, not without misgivings as to the result, for the yard being on a bluff, she had to take a jump, and as a matter of fact was "hogged" in the attempt; but to our great gratification did not thereby spring a leak.

The difficulties of the iron-clad were not ended when she reached the waters of the river. Commander Cooke was in charge. She was still unfinished. Having obtained two young officers and twenty men, and placed on board ten portable forges with numerous sledge hammers Cooke started on his voyage down the river as a floating workshop. "Naval history," says a historian, "affords no such remarkable evidence of patriotic zeal, and individual perseverance." Captain John N. Maffitt, of the Confederate navy, gave a graphic continuation of the story.

On the turtle-back (he wrote in his "Reminiscences"), numerous stages were suspended, thronged with sailors wielding huge sledge hammers. Upon the pilot-house stood Capt. Cooke giving directions. Some of the crew were being exercised at one of the big guns. "Drive in Spike No. 10!" sang out the commander. "On nut below and screw up! Invert and sponge. Load with cartridge!" was the next command. "Drive in No. 11, port-side—so!" "On nut and screw up hard! Load with shells—prime!" And in this seeming babel of words the floating monster glided by.

After an active drill at the guns, an aide was dispatched to sound the obstructions placed in the river by the enemy. He returned at midnight and reported favorably, upon which all hands were called and soon the steamer was under way.

Soon that dull leaden concussion which to practiced ears denotes a heavy bombardment broke upon the ear, and ere long by the dawn's early light the spires of Plymouth greeted the sight.

It was at 3 A. M. on the 19th of April, 1864, when the "Albemarle" passed in safety over the river obstructions, and received without reply a furious storm of shot from the fort at Warren's Neck. Instantly grasping the situation, amid the cheers of his crew, Cooke made for the Federal gunboats that were chained together in the rear of Fort Williams, guarding its flank, and dashed nine feet of his prow into the "Southfield," delivering at the same time a broadside into the "Miami", killing and wounding many of her crew. Among the killed was numbered her commander, the brilliant Flusser. In ten minutes the "Southfield" was at the bottom, the prow of the ram still clinging to her and exciting for a few moments serious apprehensions for the safety of the "Albemarle." However, she was soon disentangled, and being released from the downward pressure was fiercely pursuing the enemy, who were finally driven out of the river.

The next day the Confederate forces under General Hoke carried the Federal defences of Plymouth by storm, captured the own, andt took storm, captured the town, and took The iron-clad, built in the cornfield of Halifax County, had performed a prominent part in the sanguinary and brilliant capture of Plymouth.

Some months later, after various other engagements with the Federal vessels, the "Albemarle" engaged near the mouth of the Roanoke an enemy fleet of seven vessels. After a terrific battle of four hours, in which her smokestack was riddled and she was otherwise crippled at the cost of great losses to the Federals, she put back to Plymouth, and lay almost a wreck until the night of October 27, 1864, when she was torpedoed and sunk by the intrepid Lieutenant William B. Cushing, of the United States Navy.

Mr. James C. Hill, aged 18, was a midshipman on the "Albemarle."

In the enterprise Cushing's own boat was swamped by the rush of the water, and of his thirteen officers and men all but himself and one other were either shot, drowned or made prisoners.

The "Albemarle" was raised by the Federals in April, 1865, and an Admiralty Court appraised her value at $282,856, of which $79,954 was distributed among the men who destroyed her.

The battle-battered smokesack of the "Albemarle" is now in the museum of the Historical Commission at Raleigh.

Albemarle Tablet at Edward's Ferry Bridge unveiled Wednesday April 20, 1927. Twin granddaughters of the late Peter Evans Smith, Builder of the Confederate Ram "Albemarle" drew aside the cords holding a Confederate Flag, displaying the tablet to the view of the assembled crowd.

Authorities

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J. T. Scharf's "History of the Confederate States Navy" (1887).

John N. Maffitt's "Reminiscences of the Confederate States Navy" (1887).

THE END

a series of historical sketches of Halifax County, written by the late Dr. Armistead C. Gordon and reprinted through arrangement with the American Historical society, original publishers.

OLD WELDON

Happenings 33 Years Ago In Weldon And Vicinity.

June 12, 1890.—Mr. J. H. McGee lost a fine horse one day last week. He had been tied out to graze and became entangled in the rope and broke his neck.

The following have been elected officers of Roanoke Lodge No. 203, A. F. & A. M. for the ensuing year:

W. T. Whitfield—W. M.
W. H. Brown—S. W.
E. Clark—J. W.
H. S. S. Cooper—Secretary.
J. T. Evans—Treasurer.

Mr. W. E Daniel and the Rev. W. B. Morton left this week to attend the commencement exercises of Wake Forest College.

Misses Susie and Mamie Timberlake, of Raleigh, are visiting relatives in town.

Miss Kate Taylor Prescott, who has been attending school at Lynchburg, Va., returned home Monday to the delight of her many friends.

Miss Laura Powers, who has been visiting friends in Richmond and Petersburg, returned home Monday.

Major T. L. Emry is attending a meeting of the Board of Penitentiars Directors at Raleigh.

On Thursday last a party of capitalists visited this place to examine into the feasibility of building a second canal about three miles above town on the Moore farm. They rode out to the locality and were out there several hours. The party returned to town and were handsomely entertained at dinner After dinner a business meeting was held and nothing that took place has been given out for publication.

Miss Mabel Zollicoffer left Friday for a visit to Miss Arrington in Warrenton.

At Grace church, this place, on Wednesday evening, the 11th inst., the Rev. W. L. Mellichampe, rector, officiating, Mr. Andrew J Campbell was united in marriage to Miss Lucy, daughter of Gavin H. Clark, Esq.

The attendants entered as follows, preceeded by the ushers, Messrs. W. M. Cohen and O. W. Pierce: Miss Mary Long Green, flower girl; S. B. Pierce and Miss Hennie Capell; Ernest L. Hayward and Miss Annie Lou Stainback; C. R. Emry and Miss Kate Gary; C. G. Evans and Miss Mabel Zollicoffer; James W. Howard and Miss Ellen Faucett; John J. Long and Miss Fannie Clark.