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Cobb, Needham Bryan (1870 – 1872)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

8-2-1963

Correspondence - R. Hubbard Hamrick & Mary L. Cobb

Mary L. Cobb

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517 E. Franklin St.
Chapel Hill, N. C. 27514
August 2, 1963.

Mr. R. Hubbard Hamrick
930 W. Warren St.
Shelby, N. C. 28150.

Dear Mr. Hamrick:

My aunt, Miss Lucy M. Cobb, has asked me to answer the letter which you wrote her about her father, Needham Bryan Cobb, and which was forwarded to her at her Raleigh address, Apt. 3, 11 S. Boylan Ave. She is not well, having only recently returned from the hospital and is not equal to writing. She has conferred with me, however, and has asked me to tell you about her father. You wrote:

"I believe that he was here from Jan. 1870 till Dec. 1872 according to the church minutes with his signature. The information that I have on him is he was born in Wayne County Feb. 1, 1836; graduated at University of N. C. at eighteen years old, in 1854, studied law and practiced for a while in Pitt, Wayne and Green Counties till 1859. He left the Episcopal Church and was baptized and ordained into the Baptist Church in Wilson in 1860. He was Chaplain of the 4th N. C. Regiment during the Civil War and was President of the Baptist State Convention in the early 1880's."

Aunt Lucy pointed out two things in this that should be corrected. Grandfather was born in Jones Co. on a plantation owned by his father, William Donnell Cobb, whose home was in Wayne Co. Also she understands that he was President of the Baptist State Convention in the early 1870's. See Paschal's "History of N. C. Baptists."

Additional information is that Needham Bryan Cobb and Dr. J. D. Hufham published the first daily paper, "The Daily Record," published in Raleigh after the Civil War, the printing of which was permitted by the Northern officer in charge of the city. At one time he was State Superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School Board. He was the first recipient of the M. A. degree for work done at the University of North Carolina, only honorary master's degrees having been conferred previously. He earned this in 1856. The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him in 1889 by Judson College. He was the first shorthand teacher in North Carolina. He was known as an historian of both his state and his denomination. He also published a small book of verse, "A Poetical Geography of North Carolina and Other Poems." Among the "other poems" were a tribute on the death of President Jefferson Davis and a "Reply to Gray's Elegy." Aunt Lucy was told by someone in Shelby years ago that the latter was written in Shelby.

I am mailing to you a photograph of Needham Bryan Cobb which I shall appreciate your returning to me when you no longer need it.

We are interested in hearing about the history which you are preparing and hope that the information which we are sending will be of help.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mary L. Cobb
(Miss) Mary L. Cobb.