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LIFE

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near Dobbins church in Rutherford county (says R. G. Burrus) in an unmarked grave. He was pastor of Sandy Run church from 1803 to 1847. In appreciation of his services the members of Sandy Run erected the monument. Amzi Clarence Dixon preached the sermon on the occasion of the unveiling, December 18, 1893.

COL. WILLIAM GRAHAM

About seven miles southeast of Shelby, at what used to be Graham's Fort, near Broad River, there is a monument erected to Col. William Graham, who was the leading citizen of this section during the War of the Revolution. He was the author and leader in signing the Tryon Resolves. He died in

1835.

COL. FREDERICK HAMBRIGHT

A good German who became a patriotic American citizen. At the Battle of Kings Mountain, Col. Fred Hambright gallantly led a company of men, and in the fighting was severely wounded in the hip. He refused to retire but continued encouraging "my brave boys." He is buried at Old Shiloh Presbyterian church, near Grover.

IN SHELBY CEMETERY

The remaining eight markers I shall mention are in Sunset cemetery. The oldest gravestone in this cemetery is that of Margaret Homesley, five-months old daughter of A. R. and R. A. Homesley. She died in January, 1846.

CAPT. PLATO DURHAM

The outstanding leader in this county in the War Between the States, and in the Reconstruction period that followed, was Capt. Plato Durham. In the Durham plot there is a large stone. On one side of this stone is a bronze tablet with the following inscription:

"Plato Durham, 1840-1875. Son of Micajah Durham and Esther McDowel Baxter. 'Three things if possessed by a man entitle him to be called chief of kindred: That he speak on behalf of his kin and be listened to: That he fight on behalf of his kin and be feared: That he offer himself as a pledge for his akin and be accepted.' (A Welsh Triad)."

MICAJAH DURHAM

On the other side of the stone is a bronze tablet for the father of Plato Durham, which reads: "Micajah Durham, 1804-1864. Son of Charles Alexander Durham and Patience Davis. A leader of his people in thought and deed. An advocate of Statse' Rights. Member of the N. C. Cession Convention May 1861 to May 1862. Following four sons, tho' far over military age, he enlisted as a private soldier in Lane's Brigade of the Confederate Army Sept. 1862. Was killed in action and buried in a nameless grave at the Battle of the Wilderness, May 6, 1864. A reader of books, a lover of things of the spirit. He rode horseback from Rutherford county, N. C., to New York City, and again to Charleston, S. C., to hear Jenny Lind sing.

CAPT. CICERO A. DURHAM

"The fighting Quartermaster" was the nickname applied to Capt. Cicero A. Durham, of the 49th N. C. T. Matt Ransom Brigade. He was wounded in the fighting at Drury's Bluff, and died three weeks later on June 4, 1864, at the age of 40 years. Much of his record is written on the granite shaft erected to his memory. He was a cousin of Plato Durham.

JESSE JENKINS

The tallest monument in the cemetery, and it soars to a height of perhaps 25 feet, is that of Jesse Jenkins, erected by his wife, who was Hattie Beam. The inscription is: "Jesse Jenkins, born January, 1832. Died in Meridian, Texas, Dec. 4, 1889. My Darling husband."

THOMAS DIXON, JR.

The monument was erected by friends to the most famous man in Shelby has produced. The inscription is:

"Thomas Dixon, Jr., 1864-1946. Lawyer, Minister, Author, Orator, Playwright, Actor. A native of Cleveland County, and most distinguished son of his generation. Author of 28 books dealing with Reconstruction period, the most popular of which are The Leopold Spots and The Clansman from which The Birth of A Nation is taken."

OLIVER MAX GARDNER

The triple white marble columns at the head of this grave represent the three pillars: Love, Justice, and Wisdom. The inscription on the chest-shaped marble mark-

er covering the grave reads:

"Oliver Max Gardner, March 22, 1882—February 6, 1947. Governor of North Carolina. Father of Consolidated University of North Carolina. Chairman Advisory Board Office of War Mobilization and Reconstruction. Undersecretary of the Treasury. Ambassador to Great Britain."

UNION SOLDIERS

There are two graves with no identification, except the words "Union Soldier." These markers were erected some years ago by the federal government. The two soldiers were either members of the company of Federal troops sent here just after the close of the war in 1865, or else were members of the battalion sent here during the Ku Klux Klan era. One of these men is probably the soldier who offered the unmentionable insult to the fiery little Southerner, Sallie Homesley, who lived on what is now the vacant lot below the Dixie Home Store. When he died Sallie went to the cemetery and danced on his grave.

I should like to mention others, but I have no more space.

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