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# In Cleveland County's Early Days

By MAMIE JONES

## THE TRAGEDY OF WAR

"He shall judge among many people and rebuke strong nations afar off. And they shall beat their swords into plow shares and their spears into pruning hooks . . . He maketh wars to cease unto the ends of the earth, he breaketh the bow and cutteth the spear asunder . . . Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more . . . The Lord will bless his people with peace . . . They shall sit every man under his own vine and fig tree, and none shall make them afraid . . ."

This promise is more than 2,000 years old. Men and women are still hoping that some day mankind will help God fulfill it.

## ABRAHAM LINCOLN AND WAR IN 1861

It was generally accepted as a fact that if Abraham Lincoln were elected President he would wage war against seceding Southern states to force them back into the Union. North Carolina did not wish to leave the Union. Although, according to Ashe's History, Cleveland County was among the first counties in the State to hold secession meetings.

Soon after his inauguration as President of the United States of America in 1861, matters came to a crisis. On the 15th day of April, 1861, President Lincoln called on North Carolina's governor, John W. Ellis, for two regiments of militia.

This put North Carolina where she must either cast her lot with her seceding sister states of the South, or against them. She chose to stand with her sister states, and fight for States' Rights which had been guaranteed under the Constitution of the USA. Governor Ellis defiantly wired President Lincoln:

"You will get no troops from North Carolina."

## CLEVELAND GUARDS ORGANIZED

In the little village of Shelby one week later, April 22, 1861, Cleveland County's first military company received its commission, as Company E, 2nd North Carolina Regiment. At this time there were 84 members, 12 officers and 72 men.

The names of these 84 volunteers were printed on white satin, and distributed among interested friends. Mrs. Ansel Irvin Hardin sewed hers onto a quilt. This quilt is now in possession of her granddaughters, Miss Mame Hardin and Mrs. Kate Crowder. Miss Hardin, who copied the list for me, writes that the satin is so worn after 89 years, that some of the names and initials are not legible, and has put a question mark "?" at several places to indicate uncertainty as to the correctness of the letter used. Here follows what is printed on the white satin:

"Cleveland Guards. On the 22nd day of April, 1861, a Military Company was formed in Shelby, N. C., to be known by the name and style of "The Cleveland Guards", 72 having volunteered. The Company organized by, electing the following officers: A. W. Burton, Capt.; Cicero A. Durham, 1st Lieut.; Jesse Jenkins, 2nd Lieut.; P. P. Hoke, 3rd Lieut.; A. W. Quinn, (or was it W. McSwain?) 4th Lieut.; W. W. Wright, 1st Serg.; J. W. Fulton, 2nd Serg.; T. Washburn, 3rd Serg.; D. M. Miller, 1st Corporal; John E. Hoey, 2nd Corp.; M. W. Doggett, 3rd Corp.; Sam L. Wray, 4th Corp.; John F. Miller, M.D., surgeon, C. C. Durham, secretary and treasurer." (These volunteers were evidently paying their own expenses).

"The following is a list of the Company: R. L. Adams, E. W. Blackwell, R. S. Barry, Joshua C.

Beam, J. M. Beam, A. R. Beam, Z. P. Biggers, R. S. Brown, W. C. Blanton, J. Pink Cabaniss, N. B. Cabaniss, James Costner, S. A. Crowder, John W. Dalton, Augustus Deal, M. P. Dellinger, M. A. Dority, B. H. Durham, C. Durham, L. N. Durham, R. L. Durham, S. G. Durham, John H. Eskridge, J. S. Eskridge, J. B. Fulton, W. W. Gilbert, H. J. Gladden, M. B. Gold, T. F. Green, E. F. Grigg, E. Hallman, H. Hallman, L. A. Hamrick, Vadra Hallman, Elijah Hemrick, I. J. Hardin, J. P. Hardin, P. S. Harmon, J. J. Harrillson, T. W. Hendrick, J. B. Hicks, Joseph Hill, F. L. Hoke, E. H. Howell, S. L. Hopper, A. J. Hughes, J. K. Kirby, Jr., Austin Irvin, C. D. Jolly, E. A. Jones, Harper F. Jones, W. P. Laten, B. F. Logan, J. P. Nowell, A. A. McAfee, Joshua Melton, Dr. J. E. Osborne, John C. Oats, Rufus Oats, T. C. Owens, A. J. Redmond, "2" T. J. Runyons, J. W. Toms, W. W. Warlick, "2" Daniel Warlick, J. S. Webber, D. D. Whis-

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nant, D. S. Webber, "?" and W. M. Wilson." (I think one of those illegible names is W. M. Tucker).

In the "Roster of North Carolina Troops", to be found at the Shelby Library, there are names of a number of soldiers who did enlist here on April 22, 1861, but they did so after those whose names were printed on the white satin had enlisted. Hence, these later enlistments are not included in the list printed above.

F. L. Hoke, above mentioned, was elected drummer for the Company. However, he returned to Shelby in a short time, and in 1863 was appointed Captain of the local Home Guard.

Our people were not familiar with war, and it was not until the afternoon of April 21st, that the leaders realized the military company should have a flag. That night a group of women worked till dawn to make a flag. A lovely bluish-grey banner with the words "Cleaveland Guards" in letters of colored silk. The colors of the flag were the colors of the Confederacy.

The flag presentation was made by one of the village belles, Miss Zulia J. Durham, in the name of the Ladies of Shelby.

Sometime during the four years of fighting (about 1863, I think) this banner was captured by a Boston regiment. About 30 years later, on September 22, 1892, several members of this regiment, as a token of good will, brought the flag to Shelby and with appropriate ceremonies, returned the banner to the remnant of Cleveland Guards that were then living. This flag is now in the State Archives at Raleigh.

In a scrap book, which Robert C. Miller has very graciously lent me, I find an article written by my grandfather, Harper F. Jones, who was one of the Cleveland Guards, which was published in a local paper more than 50 years ago. Grandpa wrote that the Company reached Raleigh on the 28th of April, 1861, "here they were uniformed and provided with arms and became a part of the Second Regiment of N. C. Volunteers." At one time the Company numbered 135 men. In 1862, it became part of the 12th N. C. Regiment.

Grandpa wrote further:

"General Mahone, at that time Brigade Commander, while inspecting, paused when he came to Company "E" and inquired where they had been recruited. He said they were the finest looking body of men he had seen in the Army."

Soon after leaving Shelby, Capt. Aug. W. Burton was promoted to Major, and Jerome B. Fulton was appointed Captain. Other captains, appointed later, were Jesse Jenkins, John W. Gidney, and Plato Durham.

#### **GOOD YANKEES AND BAD**

Recently, there was much indignation among our people when newspaper stories out of Korea told of wounded USA soldiers who were taken prisoners and then shot by the enemy. This treatment is not new in warfare. It has happened right here in this lovely land of ours. Men of the Confederacy, fighting for States' Rights, had similar experiences in the 1860's. They found there were mean Yankees and good Yankees.

My grandfather, above referred to, was gravely wounded in the fighting at Spotsylvania. He and two other seriously wounded Confederates were carried by Peter Buff, and laid in the basement of a large building nearby.

Presently, up came a group of Yankee privates and said: "Look at those Johnny Rebs! They're just about done for! They are not good for anything! Let's shoot them!" They were raising their rifles to do just that, when a Yankee officer came up and heard what they were saying. Grandpa said after three years in the Army he thought he had heard all kinds of plain and fancy cussing. But never had he heard such a cussing as that Yankee captain gave those privates who were about to shoot wounded, helpless Confederate soldiers.

Said the Yankee Captain: "Those Southerners are wounded and are unable to defend themselves. You get stretchers at once and take them to the hospital."

When the Yankee doctor came to grandpa's cot in the hospital, he told him the wound in his hip was so serious that he would have to cut off his leg. Grandpa begged him to do something for him, and not cut off his leg. He said, "There is nothing else I can do. Die, damn you!" But next day the doctor came again and put a silk cord through the wound in the leg, and told grandpa that if he would re-

member to keep working that cord through the wound, he might possibly live and save the leg. Grandpa did work the cord, and during the months that followed 26 pieces of bone came out. Even with those un-sterile conditions the hip did heal, and he later rejoined his regiment and served until the end of the war.

Facilities for treating wounds were very inadequate in the 1860's. There was but small means for sterilization, and the only anesthetics available were morphia and laudnaum, and these had to be taken by mouth. Ether had been discovered, but I doubt if they used it at that time.

#### NO DAINITIES FOR REBELS

Grandpa said that while he was a patient in this Union Hospital some Yankee women came one day and brought dainties for the sick soldiers. They put jelly and some fruit on a shelf beside his cot. Very soon they found out that he was a soldier of the Confederacy and not a Yankee, and they came back and took away the things they had brought.

(I mention my grandfather's ex-

## Stymied

OLEAN, N. Y. —(AP)— Policeman fed live crabs to Allie, their pet baby alligator, until a small crab bit back.

Allie and the crab finally settled down at opposite ends of the aquarium, eyeing each other in a deadlock.

periences because I know about them, and because they are similar to those thousands of other Confederate soldiers).

I have written at length about the Cleveland Guards because it was the first company to go out from this county to fight for States' Rights.

There were 14 other companies that went out between 1861 and 1865 from this county, and I shall write about them later. I shall also write further about Lieut. T. D. Falls of Fallston, a member of Company "C", 55th N. C. Regiment who, with two companions, distinguished himself by going furtherest to the front in the fighting around Gettysburg.

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