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In Cleveland County's Early Days

BY MAMIE JONES

THE TRAGEDY OF WAR

'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 . . . They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks . . . The Lord will bless His people with peace.'

This promise is more than 2,000 years old. Men and women are still hoping that some day it may be fulfilled.

Abraham Lincoln War

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 in March, 1861, matters came to a crisis. On the 15th day of April, 1861, President Lincoln called on North Carolina's Governor 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 State's Rights which had been guaranteed by

the Constitution. Governor Ellis defiantly wired President Lincoln "You will get no troops from North Carolina."

Cleveland Guards Organized

In Shelby, one week later, on April 15th, 1861, Cleveland County's first military company received its commission as Company E, 12th N. C. Regiment. At this time there were 84 members, 12 officers and 72 men.

The names of these first 84 volunteers were printed on white satin and distributed among interested friends. Mrs. Ansel Irvine Hardin sewed her list onto a quilt, which quilt is now in the 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 away after 87 years that some of the initials are not decipherable, and has put a question mark "?" at several places to indicate uncertainty as to the correctness of the letter used. Here follows what was printed on the white satin:

"Cleveland Guards. On the 22nd day of April, a Military Company was formed in Shelby, N. C., Cleveland County, 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.; C. A. Durham, 1st Lieut.; Jesse Jenkins, 2nd Lieut.; P. P. Hoke, 3rd Lieut.; W. McSwain, 4th

Lieut.; W. W. "?", 1st Serg.; J. W. Fulton, 2nd Serg.; T. Washburn, 3rd Serg.; D. Miller, 1st Corp.; John E. Hoey, 2nd Corp.; M. W. Doggett, 3rd Corp.; Sam L. Wray, 4th Corp. J. F. Miller, M. D., Surgeon; C. C. Durham, Sec. & Treas. (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. "?" Blanton, J. P. Cabiness, N. B. Cabiness, James Costner, S. A. Crowder, Jno. 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. Halman, H. Hallman, L. A. Hamrick, Vadra Hollman, Elijah Hamrick, I. J. Hardin, J. P. Hardin, P. S. Harmon, J. J. Harrilison, 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 "?", T. J. "?" Runyons, "?" "?" Toms, W. W. Warlick, Daniel Warlick, J. S. Web-

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ber, D. D. Whisnant, D. S. Wilkins, "?" "?" Wilson,"

The name of F. L. Hoke appears in the list above. His granddaughters, Miss Augusta Sisk and Mrs. Ina Forney tell me that he was Captain of the Guard, and they have his sword.

Flag Presented

Later, nearly 100 other volun-

leers joined this group. Before they left for training one May day, they came together and in the presence of a large gathering of Cleveland County people, they were presented with a flag, a lovely bluish-gray silk banner with the words "Cleveland Guards" in letters of colored silk. The colors of the flag were the colors of the Confederacy. This was presented by Miss Zulia Durham, a young Shelby belle, in the name of the ladies of Shelby. A group of women worked all night to make it.

During the four years of fighting that followed this banner was captured by a Boston regiment. About 30 years later some of the members of this regiment, as a token of good will, came to Shelby; and with appropriate ceremonies returned the flag to the Cleveland Guards.

Cleveland County furnished more men in proportion to her population than any other county in the State. One-sixth of her population went to war. She sent more men to fight than she had registered voters.