NORTH CAROLINA COLONIAL DAMES
MEMORIAL TABLET ADDRESS

Delivered by

JUDGE WALTER CLARK

of

Raleigh, North Carolina

Fayetteville, North Carolina

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THIS TABLET

Placed by the North Carolina Society of Colonial Dames on the West side of the old market house in Fayetteville, was unveiled 2 January, 1924. It bears the following inscription:

"The North Carolina Society of Colonial Dames has placed this tablet to commemorate the following events:

1. First organized Scotch settlement on Cape Fear at the mouth of Cross Creek 1739.
2. Cumberland County established 1754.
3. The incorporation of the town of Campbellton 1762.
4. The settlement of Cross Creek village 1765.
5. Liberty Point Declaration of Independence, June 20, 1775.
6. Cross Creek and Campbellton united and incorporated as Fayetteville 1783.
7. On this site stood the State House.
8. Here the Constitution of the United States was adopted November 21, 1789.
9. Here Charter of the University of North Carolina was granted 1789.
10. Here LaFayette was welcomed March 4, 1825.

The present structure built about 1838 replaced the original one destroyed by the fire of 1831.

The Women's Civic Association organized 1907 has preserved this building."

ADDRESS
by
Walter Clark

At the unveiling of the tablet placed by the North Carolina Society of Colonial Dames on the old market house in Fayetteville, 2 January, 1924.

LADIES OF THE COLONIAL DAMES AND CITIZENS OF FAYETTEVILLE: It is always most pleasant to anyone, especially to a North Carolinian, to visit Fayetteville. Besides the proverbial hospitality and courtesy of your people, there are the historical associations of your past which the ladies on this occasion are placing in lasting bronze on the front of this historic building and your assurance of a still greater future for which you are reaching out and which you so well deserve to attain.

It has been well said that a people who place no memorials in honor of the great deeds of their ancestors will do nothing that will deserve commemoration by their descendents. This reproach cannot be made against the people of this city and county and least of all against the Ladies who compose the Colonial Dames of this city. The tablet which you are unveiling today places a lasting memorial at least ten of the most notable events in the history of your city and county.

1. It commemorates in the first place the first organized Scotch settlement on the Cape Fear River at the mouth of Cross Creek in 1739. This was the beginning of that splendid Scotch immigration which has been perpetuated and extended through this entire section and whose descendants have done so much for the honor and development of North Carolina.

11. It also commemorates the organization of Cumberland County which was formed in 1754 from the upper part of Bladen. Strangely enough, it was named for William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, second son of George II. He had commanded the English forces at the battle of Culloden in 1746 where the Highlanders received their final defeat and the House of Stuart was completely crushed. He followed up his victory with such cruelty and so many executions that he was long called the "Bloody Duke." Gabriel Johnston, who was of Scotch birth, was from 1733 to 1751 Governor of the province of North Carolina and he aided largely to start the immigration of the Scotch to this state.

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In 1739 a shipload of Scotch under Neil McNeil of Kintyre settled near this place, then known as Cross Creek. The General Assembly, doubtless on the suggestion of Governor Gabriel Johnston, was anxious to get Scotch settlers and had passed an act making them free of taxation for ten years after arrival and voted them a thousand pounds as a gift or aid. After Culloden the immigration of Highland Scotch to this section greatly increased and in 1754 it is estimated there were 1 000 Scotch capable of bearing arms settled in this section. At the General Assembly held in Wilmington in 1754 the northern part of Bladen was made into the County of Cumberland. In 1757 Rev. James Campbell of Argylishire, a Presbyterian, of course, came to Cumberland and took charge of the church near what is now Fayetteville. In 1757 there had been granted on quit-leases, 80,000 acres in Cumberland.

111. In 1762 the General Assembly, upon application, granted the petition for public buildings for the county to be erected at Cross Creek and the town of Campbellton was chartered. the second court-house was built and at a point a mile east of the present Fayetteville. The Scotch immigrants continued to arrive in increasing numbers.

IV. The village of Cross Creek was first settled in 1765 where ten years later was made Liberty Point of the Declaration of Independence on 20 June, 1775, in honor of which you had a memorable celebration in this city. In 1769 the Regulators among their grievances stated they wanted warehouses for Anson and Orange counties, which were, of course, then very much larger than at present, erected at Campbellton which was then considered the head of navigation on the Cape Fear. In 1766 a tobacco warehouse and wharf had been built there under orders of the General Assembly and notes were issued, under authority of the Privince, of the tobacco inspected, packed and stored there. In this they were nearly 160 years ahead of the present co-operative tobacco associations and received greater recognition in that the State issued notes upon the shipment of the tobacco.

In 1770 many Highland clans were reported represented in this section the McNeils being prominent. The Scotch "wore their national costume and mingled together like one family. The bag-pipes were played at all gatherings." In 1771 upon the petition of the free-hold inhabitants of and near Campbellton the privilege of a borough town was given them to send a member to the General Assembly and Robert Rowan was the first member chosen. A public highway was ordered built from Cross Creek to the Dan River through Cumberland, Chatham, and Guilford. In 1772 an act was passed exempting immigrants from taxation for four years and several shiploads of Scotch folks coming from the Highlands of Arran, Dura, Isla, Skye, and Argyllshire were landed and most of them settled in Cumberland. The number of these immigrants in that year was given as 1600. Another great wave of Scotch immigration followed in 1774 when the McDonalds fairly poured in from Skye and adjacent islands. Allan McDonald the husband of the celebrated Flora McDonald being their leader.

V. On June 20, 1775, the patriots formed an association and adopted the Liberty Point Declaration of Independence, which was signed by Robert Rowan and 38 others. This was as defiant as the Mecklenburg Declaration and only a few days later. It read as follows:

"The Association, June 20, 1775.

"The actual commencement of hostilities against the continent, by the British troops, in the bloody scene of April 19 last, near Boston the increase of arbitrary impositions from the wicked and despotic Ministry, and the dread of instigated insurrections in the colonies, are causes sufficient to drive an oppressed people to the use of arms. We, therefore, the

subscribers, of Cumberland County, holding ourselves vound by the most sacred of all obligations, the duty of good citizens towards an injured country, and thoroughly convinced, that, under our distressed circumstances, we shall be justified in resisting force by force, do unite ourselves under every tie of religion and honor, and associate as a band in her defence against every foe, hereby solemnly engaging, that whenever our Continental or Provincial Councils shall decree it necessary, we will go forth and be ready to sacrifice our lives and fortunes to secure her freedom and safety. This obligation to continue in full force until a reconciliation shall take place between Great Britain and America, upon constitutional principles, an even we most ardently desire; and we will hold all those persons inimical to the liberty of the colonies, who shall refuse to subscribe to this Association; and we will in all things follow the advice of our General Committee respecting the purposes aforesaid, the preservation of peace and good order and the safety of infividual and private property. Signed,

Robert Rowan	Theoplilus Evans	David Shepard
Lewis Barge	Thomas Moody	Micajah Farrell
Maurice Nowlan	Jos. De Lespine	John Wilson
Lewis Powell	Arthur Council	James Emmet
Martin Lennard	John Oliver	Aaron Vardey
George Fletcher	Charles Stevens	John Parker
Walter Murray	William Herrin	Philip Herrin
David Evans	Robert Verner	James Gee
John Elwell	David Dunn	William White
Benjamin Elwell	Simon Benday	Joshua Hadley
Joseph Green	John Jones	William Blocker
Robert Green	Robert Council	Sam'l. Hallingsworth
Robert Carver	Samuel Carver	"William Carver"

The Liberty Point Declaration which was adopted here was quickly followed by similar declarations in New Hanover, Duplin, Anson, Bladen, Onslow, and several other counties.

It did not meet with the concurrence of these newly arrived immigrants who knew nothing of the grievances of the older settlers and who remembered the disasterous results of their own uprising in Scotland in 1745. In 1776 Governor Josiah Martin, who had fled from the palace in New Bern, issued the famous proclamation ordering the loyal Scotch to raise the royal standard at Cross Creek, and Allan McDonald was appointed Brigadier General. The clans came down quickly with their pipes playing. The McDonalds, McLeods, McKenzies, McRaes, McLeans, McKays, McLaughlins, and many others. On 27 February 1776 this array of Highlanders went to defeat at the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge not far from here, in which the citizens of this section were opposed to each other. Besides the killed, large numbers were taken prisoners.

In 1781 after the battle of Guilford Court House on 15 March, Cornwallis, with his little British army of 1520 infantry and 200 cavalry, marched through Cross Creek hoping to raise re-enforcements among the Scotch settlers, but with small success. He reached Wilmington and there received some re-enforcements. Thence he set out on his fatal march through eastern Carolina camping at Halifax en route to the final surrender at Yorktown.

Cornwallis's muster roll on January 15, 1781, at Hillsboro showed a total of 3,824 officers and men but at Cross Creek on his retreat from Guilford Court House, a short while after the battle, he had 1723 only, so that he lost nearly half of his force in 75 days

by casualties and desertions (which are said to have been numerous) and only 2/3 of these were said to have been fit to fight. Lieut-Col. Webster, a gallant officer of the 33rd Regiment, was among the wounded at Guilford which accompained the army. He died when he reached a few miles below Elizabethtown and was burried at the foot of a pine tree on the roadside at a spot which is still pointed out. Long years afterwards when the grave was opened, it is said that he lay in his uniform and ingisnia as a British officer almost apparently alive but when the body was touched the whole instantly dissolved into dust.

VI. In 1783 the village of Cross Creek and thevillage of Campbellton were united and incorporated as Fayetteville in honor of Marquis de LaFayette who had rendered such efficient service in aiding the achievement of our independence and under that historic name the city has borne an honorable and conspicuous part in all the subsequent events of our state history.

In 1784 Cumberland County was abolished and was divided into two new counties, Moore and Fayette, but in a few months the name of Fayette was changed back to Cumberland.

The first capital of the province of North Carolina was at Bath in what is now Beaufort County. Then for a while it was at Wilmington; thence it was moved to New Bern under Governor Tryon who built there a palace. During our Revolution the General Assemblies were styled "Congresses" for a while. The Congress which met at Halifax in 12 April 1776 instructed our delegation in the General Congress at Philadelphia to declare for American Independence, being the first state to do so, which historical event is commemorated on our state flag and seal. During the Revolution our Legislative Assemblies were held at Smithfield, at Hillsboro, at Fayetteville, and other places.

VII. During the Revolution and for some time afterwards we had no capital and our General Assemblies were peripatetic, meeting at Wilmington, Halifax , Smithfield, Fayetteville, Hillsboro, and probably other places until the capital was permanently located at its present site by the act of 1790. The building which stood on this spot was occupied by the General Assembly when it met here and which adjourned in 1789 for the Convention which in the same building adopted the Constitution of the United States.

At Hillsboro in 1788, the State Convention declared by a vote of 100 majority against the ratification of the Constitution of the United States. It is said that this was done under the influence of Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration and afterwards twice President of the United States on the ground that there was no bill of rights recognizing the rights of persons in that instrument. Honorable Willie Jones of Halifax and others, acting in co-operation with Mr. Jefferson, opposed and ratification of the Constitution after the Union had been made sure by the adoption of nine states, until the first ten Amendments were agreed to be incorporated and upon that understanding the Convention was called to meet at Fayetteville in November 1789.

VIII. And here was ratified on 21 November, 1789, the Constitution of the United States, we being the twelfth state to do this. The General Assembley was in session here when the Convention assembled and adjourned over for the purpose of holding the Convention. Governor Richard Caswell died here during that session of the General Assembly. The Constitution of the United States was adopted at this place on 21 November, 1789.

IX. When the first Republican Constitution of the State was adopted at Halifax on 18 December, 1776 amid the thunders of war, the founders of our government thinking of the future and of the necessity of education to make our people free and progressive, that they should "know their rights and knowing dare maintain them" inserted in that Constitution this wise provision, "all useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more Universities" but it was not until the General Assembly met here in 1784 that they had leisure to formulate and grant the charter of that University.

It is said that the geographical centre of the State is where the Cape Fear and the Deep Rivers come together at the point which was formerly known as the town of Haywood.

In former times when railroads were unknown and public roads were few and very inferior, the Cape Fear running up through the heart of the State, furnished at Fayetteville the point of departure from which wagons plying into the interior of North Carolina furnished for that great western half of the State the most ready and accessible means of shipping our products and receiving imported goods from the north and from Europe. Fayetteville was literally the metropolis of the State.

When in 1792 the General Assembly at New Bern decided upon a permanent capital for North Carolina, naturally Fayetteville would have been chosen but the influences in favor of the present location at Raleigh were very strong. The contest was for a long time undetermined, but was finally settled in favor of the site which has since become Raleigh by friends of the selection of that locality promising the U. S. Senatorship to a resident of the Cape Fear section--not from Fayetteville, however--whose support gave the requisite majority which located the new capital within ten miles of the home of Isaac Hunter. Had Fayetteville been chosen our R. R. system would have been located essentially differently. There would have been water competition here and the history of our State would have been varied in all its subsequent scenes.

X. It was here that on 4 March, 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette received a royal welcome in this town which bore his name. The incidents of that reception and of the Liberty Point Declaration of Independence on 20 June, 1775, have heretofore been recided in addresses made on this spot.

In March, 1865, the Federal Army on its march northwards from the destruction of Columbia, at Fayetteville burned the press and office of E. J. Hale and Sons, the editors and publishers of the Fayetteville Observer and committed other depredations which have not yet passed from the memory of your people. We have forgiven but we have not forgotten.

The building which stood on this spot and had been used as the State House by several legislatures, was destroyed by fire in 1831 and the present structure was built to replace it in 1838.

The Women's Civic Association, organized in 1907, has preserved this building from destruction. The greatest credit is due to their efforts which should command great success and the entire support of your people.

To narrate the historical events in Cumberland and Fayetteville would take far more than the time allotted to me on this occassion and the list of the great men whom you have furnished to the State would be a roll of honor to any people.

With the name of Cumberland County is connected the romantic history of Flora McDonald whose name and memory has been preserved wherever the English language is spoken. After the fatal battle of Culloden in which the cause of the Stuarts and the unfortunate Prince Charles Edward passed forever, Flora McDonald was arrested for aiding in his escape and carried to London. She had not been an advocate of the Pretender's claim to the crown nor was she even of the same religious faith. She was moved by the impulsive humanity of a woman for one in distress. When asked by King George how she had dared to aid the enemy of his crown and kingdom she replied with noble dignity, "I only did what I would do for your majesty in the same condition and relieve distress." She afterwards married Allan McDonald and emigrated to America in 1775 just on the eve of our Revolution. The ruins of the house in which she and her husband settled in Fayetteville was to be seen for many years. Her husband was made a general in the British Army and was taken prisoner in the battle of Moores' Creek on 27 February, 1776. On his release the family returned to Scotland but her name and fame will be forever connected with Fayetteville and Cumberland County. In her old age she plaintively said she had served both the Stuarts and their opponents and had received nothing but sorrow and misfortune in the service of both. She died in Scotland.

Among the long list of names furnished by this country to the State we can only mention a few. John Lewis Taylor, the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, represented Fayetteville in the House of Commons in 1792, 93 and 94. In 1798 he became a judge of the Superior Court and in 1819 one of the judges of the Supreme Court, becoming later Chief Justice.

Among the sons of this city and county who have held high positions in the State are Warren Winslow who was for a short while Governor of the State succeeding upon the election of David S. Read to the U. S. Senate in 1854; besides Chief Justice Taylor, John D. Toomer, and James C. McRae were Supreme Court judges while as Superior Court judges the County has furnished besides Toomer and McRae, Robert Strange, Jesse G. Shepherd, Ralph P. Buxton, and the present honored incumbent, N. A. Sinclair.

The County has furnished as members of Congress, William Barry Grove, Samuel D. Purviance, Archibald McNeil, Lemuel Bethune, Robert Strange, Jas. C. Dobbin, Warren Winslow, Wharton J. Green, and John G. Shaw.

Hon. Henry Potter was appointed District Judge to succeed Judge Bitgreaves in 1801 and occupied that position for more than fifty years.

Louis D. Henry, long one of the most prominent citizens of the state, and a member of the Legislature of which he was chosen Speaker, represented this county and was a candidate for Governor in 1842. Hon. Jas. C. Dobbin was a member of the House of Commons, of which he was Speaker, and became Secretary of the Navy on the election of Franklin Pierce as President and served with distinction. It was under his auspices that there was carried to a successful conclusion Perry's expedition to Japan which opened up that country to civilization. The expedition had been planned by his predecessor, Hon. William A. Graham, also of this State, and was carried to success under the administration of Mr. Dobbin.

Hon. E. J. Hale, besides being a distinguished soldier in the Confederate Army, later was our efficient consul to Manchester, England, and died while U. S. Minister to Costa Rica. Hon Geo. M. Rose has been Speaker of the State House of Representatives.

I would be glad to call over the names of the many distinguished soldiers of this city and county for they have been amojg the foremost in every war that this country has known but their fame is known to you and is secure. I will only venture to name Col. Charles W. Broadfoot ~~fer~~ with whom I had the honor to serve in the same regiment in the Civil War and who in addition to his distinguished service in the war, after its close was a leader among the Confederate soldiers who took practical charge of the State to restore law and order, decency and honesty in the overthrow of the carpet bagging regime, which governed us during the reconstruction era, and ~~aided~~ aided so greatly in placing our county and city and together with his comrades in other sections, placed the State on its former reputation for good government by North Carolinians and for North Carolina. And I may be pardoned also for mentioning my comrade in the same brigade, Col. John H. Anderson, also distinguished as a soldier and who also did so much after the war in the cause of restoration of our State government to the hands of our own people. There are very many more whom I should like to name but as I have said, their names are household names with you.

But time will fail any man to recall the many notable events which have clustered around the name of Cumberland and of Fayetteville and the distinguished sons she has furnished who have shed lustre on the State and Nation. It is my province to make but brief reference to the principal events which you have placed in lasting bronze on this tablet.

Under the Constitution of 1835 all the borough towns in the State, including Fayetteville, were abolished.

Moore County was formed by the division of Cumberland into two counties and Harnett was created partly from Wake and partly from Cumberland and more recently Hoke County, named in honor of one of our most distinguished Southern generals, was taken almost entirely from Cumberland.

During the war of 1861-5, no county of city was more distinguished in the support of the Confederacy and by its soldiers.

Located near the centre of the State and in the midst of an intelligent and patriotic population which knows no superior, your people have always been the centre of every patriotic and progressive movement. You have a great past of which to be proud and the future becons you on to an assured fame and to a continuation of the historical reputation which you have won in the past.

You cannot too highly value the services of the Chapter of the Colonial Dames who have rescued this historical building from destruction and who today are placing in a permanent memorial of the great deeds of your ancestors. In any community the women are the mainstay of law and order. They stand always for the right and they do not forget those things which, on this occassion, should be kept in lasting memory. They not only keep the home fires burning but, like the Vestal Virgins of ancient Rome, they keep brightly burning the fires of patriotism on the altar of their Country by such commemorations as this. Men may falter in time of trial when it is difficult to choose the perilous right, but our women do not. As Gaston said in our great State hymn, "They are true lightwood at heart."

On that greatest day that this world has seen when the earth was moved and the sun hid its face so that there was darkness from the sixth to the ninth hour and the veil of the temple was rent, when Judas Iscariot betrayed and Peter denied Him, it is written that all men deserted Him, but the band of women who followed Him were undismayed and unterrified; their loyalty they kept, their faith, their zeal. No woman with a traitorous kiss her Master stung. None denied Him with unholy tongue. When "Apostles fled, they could dangers brave, Last at the Cross and first at the Grave."

I have necessarily made to you a dry, historical narrative but it should not be entirely without interest to you for it is the story of your ancestors and of your own people. It is what they have done and it is the Colonial Dames of your town and county that today we owe it that the memory of those great deeds are to be preserved in lasting bronze.