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S.G. Counties - York - Biography - Henry Family

Just A-Rolling Along the Way

Log of Yorkville Enquirer's Reporter As He Journeys Here and There In York County.

By A. M. GRIST

Yorkville Enquirer - June 1, 1934

Everything is "grist that comes to my mill," but of course there are a good many grists that I cannot use—haven't the space to use them all—and then too, quite a good many of them are of interest to me only. This past week, however, I received a grist that I am passing on to readers of these sketches. First, because it tends to show that these sketches have been the means of spreading considerable information about York county and her people over considerable territory, and second because there are quite a few of my readers who are directly and indirectly interested in what follows.

The letter below was written by Mrs. R. W. Van Valin of Newberg, Oregon, under date of May 29 and addressed to A. M. Grist, is as follows:

"In 'The Yorkville Enquirer, issue of May 15th, you had an extensive interview with a Mr. William Henry of Pope county, Arkansas, which was of great interest to me.

"I feel that Mr. Henry is a very distant relative of mine and am anxious to get in touch with him. As you did not give his home address, or I did not find it anywhere in the paper, I am sending the enclosed letter to you and ask that you finish the address for me, and mail it to him." (Pottsville, Ark., is Mr. Henry's address).

"I am enjoying your paper very much, and the column, 'Just rolling along the way' is of most interest to me. In nearly every issue I see some name that is familiar.

"Mrs. R. W. Ransom of Tate, Ga.,—a distant relative of mine—tells me that you sent her an old issue wherein you had listed some of the Henry inscriptions from the Bethany cemetery as follows:

"Then I found a group of markers which interested me much. Here was one that told me: 'In memory of William Henry who died October 22nd, 1819, aged 104 years.' That means that he lived 38 years after the close of the Revolutionary war, and that he was 66 years of age when the conflict closed. I wonder how long he had lived in York county. Was he born in what was now York county?"

"Again: 'Major William Henry departed this life Sept. 12, 1907, aged 54 years. He was born in 1753, and was just about the right age to participate as a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and from the information I have I feel sure that he was one of the patriots who played a part at Kings Mountain.

"For your information and the benefit of any who might be interested, I might say, that both of these men father and son, took part in the Revolutionary war. Authentic facts regarding the life of William Henry, Sr., are found in the Journal of American History, in Volume 1, part 1, beginning at page 49 under the title, 'Memoirs of a Southern Congressman,' by the Honorable Felix Walker, member of the United States house of representatives from one of the Districts of North Carolina from 1808 to 1816 and a son-in-law to William Henry, Sr., having married his daughter Isabella.

"In this article Mr. Walker says: 'I was married (second marriage) to Isabella Henry on the 10th day of January, 1780 in the 27th year of my age and the 17th of hers. She was the daughter of William Henry, Esq., of York, South Carolina. Mr. Henry was a reputable citizen, a plain honest character, was a member of the legislature, and was one of the first settlers in the frontiers of the Carolinas. He raised a family of reputable boys, all of whom took an active part in the Revolutionary war. He was of a decided military character, invincible courage, feared no danger and was always ready for the most eventful enterprise.

"He was descended from a wealthy family in Ireland, the only son of his father, who possessed a large estate. William's mother died early in life, and his father married again. William not liking his step-mother so well as his own mother, ran away from home, leaving Ireland when about 18 years of age, coming to America and never returned to seek his hereditary inheritance.

"He settled in Augusta county, Virginia, and there married Isabella McKeown, of a good family. My acquaintance with her enables me to say that she was a woman of the first class in her time and day. She died at about the age of 56.

"Mr. Henry moved to South Carolina about 1754, where he secured a permanent home about three miles from Kings Mountain in the York district. Here he lived for 65 years, and died in 1819, at the age of 104 years, more than a century—something that not one in ten thousand ever do."

"His home was near Henry's knob. There he raised his seven sons and three daughters in the fear of God, love of country, and freedom of spirit.

"These children, all named in his will, on file in York county, were—James, Mary, Alexander, William, Malcolm, Isabella John Francis, Jane and Josiah).

"In 'The Henry Family' by William Henry Eldredge we find that this family spent the night before the battle of Kings Mountain in moulding

rifle balls. The father and several of the sons took part in the battle. None of them were killed, but after the battle, bullet holes were found in their clothing, and their hair, which was long, was scorched off by the British shot and powder. The youngest son, only 12 years of age, carried water to the wounded in his woolen hat.

"Again, the names of William Henry, Sr., and his sons, Alexander, Malcolm, William and John are recorded historically on account of their participation in the battle of Huck's defeat, which took place on July 12, 1780 at Brattonville, in York district, South Carolina."

In looking over the file of The Yorkville Pioneer, published in Yorkville in 1823-24 by Patrick Carey, to see if I could find anything further regarding William Henry, who died Oct. 22, 1819, or James Henry, who died Oct. 1824, aged 40 years, 11 months, 20 days, which I failed to find, I did learn that William D. Henry was the sheriff of York county or district in November, 1823, his name being signed to a number of "Sheriff's Sales" advertised at that time. John Henry, Esq., died Feb. 9, 1825, aged 48 years. His grave marker at Bethany bears this additional inscription: "A Friend of the Constitution."

Thanks, Mrs. Van Valin, for your letter. Glad to know that you are enjoying The Enquirer.

Papers of Dr. David A. Bigger
Kindness of Mrs. Bigger
July 16, 1954

Story Of D. H. Hill Tied In With General Jackson

By LT. COL. ROBERT HALL MORRISON

Much has been written recently about the old D. H. Hill School, now to be torn down. No doubt there are many persons in Charlotte who would like to know who D. H. Hill was.

Efforts to save the brick from the old structure and use them in building a historical museum on a new site grow out of the historical significance of this building which was Charlotte's first public school.

The story of its founder, D. H. Hill, is no less a part of the community's history worthy of preserving. It's a story related to Stonewall Jackson's associations with Charlotte and Mecklenburg.

Major D. H. Hill, U. S. Army, retired, and Major T. J. Jackson, U. S. Army retired, both married daughters of Rev. Dr. Robert Hall Morrison of Davidson.

FOUNDED DAVIDSON

Rev. Dr. Robert Hall Morrison D. D. was the founder and first president of Davidson. But he was president for only three years 1837-40. The college started with only two professors in addition to President Morrison, and he had to do the bulk of the teaching. He developed a serious throat trouble from which he temporarily lost his voice. As he could no longer teach he resigned from the college in the summer of 1840. He then built a residence on his farm in Catawba Springs Township, Lincoln Co. N. C. and moved there early in 1841.

He named his new residence Cottage Home. The post office was in one room of his residence. The stage coach from Charlotte to Lincolnton delivered and took up the mail, and he continued as postmaster until some time after the Civil War.

After some time on the farm his throat trouble disappeared, he became pastor of three small Presbyterian churches, Unity, Castanea, and Machpelah, and continued to preach until after he was 85 years of age.

Daniel Harvey Hill of York County, S. C., graduated from the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, in 1842, and entered the Regular Army as a second lieutenant. During the Mexican War for bravery in action he was promoted to first lieutenant, then captain and major. After this war the State of South Carolina presented Major Hill, and another native son, Major Bernard Bee, gold handled swords for their distinguished services. In 1896 while a freshman at North Carolina State College, Raleigh, I boarded with Mrs. D. H. Hill Sr. and she

showed me this sword which had been presented to her husband. The blade was of the finest steel and with a gold scabbard, the most beautiful thing of the kind that I have ever seen. It was this same Bernard Bee who as a general at the battle of Manassas gave to Jackson the sobriquet of "Stonewall."

MARRIED IN 1848

Before the Mexican War while Lt. Hill was visiting his sister, the wife of Dr. William B. McLean in Lincoln County he met the family of Dr. Morrison, and fell in love with the eldest daughter Isabella. When the war was over Major Hill married Isabella S. Morrison on Nov. 2, 1848.

Not wishing to drag his wife around from one Army post to another, Major Hill resigned from the Regular Army in 1848. He then obtained the position of professor of mathematics at Davidson College, now Washington & Lee University, Lexington, Va. He remained there until the spring of 1854, when wishing to be nearer his own and his wife's families, he obtained the position of professor of mathematics at Davidson College, where he remained until 1859.

Thomas Jonathan Jackson, of Clarksburg, Harrison Company, Va. graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1846 and immediately entered the Mexican War as a second lieutenant. Like Hill, for exceptionally bravery in action he was promoted successively to first lieutenant, captain, and major. And he and Major Hill became great friends during this war.

The war being over in the summer of 1848, during the next three years Major Jackson was successively stationed at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., Fort Hamilton, N. Y., and Fort Meade, Md. His health having become poor, and wishing to give up Army life, with the assistance of Major Hill and other friends, he was elected professor of science and philosophy at the Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va. in April 1851. He then resigned from the Army and took up his duties at V.M.I. in September, 1851.

Although it is not generally well known, "Stonewall" Jackson was married twice. Shortly after coming to Lexington he became much interested in religion. He joined the Presbyterian Church, and in August, 1853, he married Miss Eleanor Junkin, daughter of the minister, the Rev. Dr. George Junkin. This marriage was of short duration, as his wife died just one year later.

Having met Mary Anna Morrison, third daughter of Dr. R. H. Morrison, while she was visiting her sister, Mrs. D. H. Hill, in Lexington, Major Jackson and Anna Morrison were married on July 16, 1857, at the home of the bride's father, Cottage Home, in Lincoln County.

All of the six daughters of the Rev. Dr. Morrison were married at Cottage Home. The others not previously mentioned being Harriet A., married Nov. 27, 1847, to James P. Irwin of Charlotte. During the war he was a purchasing agent for the Confederate Army. Eugenia E. married a lawyer, Rufus Barringer of Concord. He became a brigadier general during the war. Susan W., married Alphonso C. Avery, a lawyer of Morganton. He became a colonel during the war, and later a Supreme Court judge for North Carolina. Laura P., married Col. John E. Brown, a lawyer of Charlotte. The three eldest sons of Dr. Morrison were C.S.A., Captain Joseph G. Morrison, C.S.A. and Captain Robert H. Morrison, C.S.A.

Major D. H. Hill promoted the building of the North Carolina Military Academy, in Charlotte completed in 1859, and he operated it until the beginning of the Civil War in 1861. He was then commissioned colonel of the First North Carolina Regiment of volunteers. Most of his students volunteered with him and practically — all of them became officers before the war was over. Major T. J. Jackson was also commissioned a colonel of Virginia Volunteers and most of his V.M.I. students volunteered with him, and later became officers. My father, Joseph G. Morrison was among this number.

BOTH PROMOTED

For outstanding services Col. Hill and Col. Jackson were rapidly promoted until both had reached the rank of lieutenant general. Gen. Jackson was wounded the first night of the battle of Chancellorsville. His left arm was amputated just below the shoulder. He got on well for a few days, but as so often happens as the result of a serious wound, pneumonia set in and he died a few days later on May 10, 1863. He and his wife and only daughter are buried at Lexington, Va. Mrs. Jackson lived in Charlotte until the time of her death in 1915, first where the Stonewall Hotel now stands, later where the Builders Building now stands. She is said to have been the only woman in the United States ever to have

had a big military funeral.

General Hill settled in Charlotte after the war and for five years, in partnership with his brother-in-law James P. Irwin, published a magazine called The Land We Love. Then for seven years he published a weekly paper in Charlotte called The Southern Home. In 1877 Gen. Hill was elected president of the University of Arkansas and remained there until 1884, when wishing to seek a warmer climate he resigned and became president of the Middle Georgia A & M College at Milledgeville, Ga. When his health became poor he resigned in 1889 and returned to Charlotte. He died September 24, 1889. He and his wife are buried in the cemetery in Davidson.

Char. Obs. April 1, 1954 CORRECTION

Let's keep the record straight. In yesterday's Observer there appeared a story about Generals D. H. Hill and Stonewall Jackson, written by Lieut. Col. Robert Hall Morrison.

Colonel Morrison's story read Major Hill obtained a position of professor of mathematics at Washington College, now Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va. In some mysterious manner, the story appeared in the early editions of The Observer reading "Davidson College, now Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va." Our linotype operator evidently was nodding when he substituted Davidson for Washington College.

HILL, DANIEL HARVEY

Military spirit and genius
of the South (from Essay on
Military Education)

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- Yorkville Enquirer
April 4, 1861, p.1, col.3



FAMOUS COTTAGE HOME IN LINCOLN COUNTY, LATER DESTROYED BY FIRE