

1

OBITUARY OF MAJOR MICAJAH PETWAY OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA.

This article was copied from the notice of Major Petway's death which appeared in the May 2nd 1849 issue of the Tarboro Free Press, Tarboro, North Carolina.

The Rocky Mount chapter of the National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, is named in honor of Major Petway.

2

OBITUARY OF MAJOR MICAJAH PETWAY.

Died in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, on the twelfth untimo. Micajah Petway in the ninety-second year of his age.

The deceased was the last but one of the Army of the Revolution in Edgecombe County, was born near this place and at an early period of our struggle entered the Army and served almost unremittingly until the close of the War.

Few served longer and few rendered more efficient service. For six months he formed one of that stern and unyielding band, technically called body-guard, which stood like a wall of adamant around the person of the Commander-in-Chief. In the dark hours of battle he fought side by side with young Lafayette at Brandywine and mingled his shouts with the victors in the terrible assault on Stonington Heights by the head-strong and impetuous Wayne.

He was called by acclamation to the command of the Company raised in 1812 in Edgecombe County and marched at its head to Norfolk, sharing all its privations and hardships of that disastrous garrison.

(This obituary copied from copy of old newspaper clipping in the possession of Mrs. D. M. Pearsall by Edna Guilford Denson on January 8, 1940.

Note: Micajah Petway is buried in the Pineview Cemetary in Rocky Mount North Carolina. Following is the inscription on his tomb,

"Micajah Petway, born (no date), died April 12th, 1849. A soldier and Major in the Revolutionary War and a Captain in the War of 1812."

THE LEWIS FAMILY OF EDGEcombe COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA.

This history of the Lewis family was compiled by Edna Guilford Denson from the Genealogy of the Family of the Hon. Bartholomew Figures Moore of Halifax County, North Carolina.

These records are now in possession of Mrs. Kate Irwin Powell Johnston of Tarboro, North Carolina, descendant of Bartholomew Figures Moore, noted jurist and lawyer of the Reconstruction period in North Carolina.

Data for the later generations was given by the late Dr. Richard Harrison Speight of Rocky Mount, North Carolina, and Mrs. Kate Irwin Johnston of Tarboro, N.C.

2-4-41

1. The Washington Lewis, born 2-25-1809, married in 1835 Anna Parks and had the following issue:

1. George Lewis, born 2-17-1840.
2. Mary Fann Lewis, born 1842.
3. Bartholomew Nelson Lewis, born 1844.
4. Thomas Higgins Lewis, born 2-25-1845.

5. Margaret Fann Lewis, born 2-25-1847. (Descendants not recorded).

4

THE LEWIS FAMILY OF EDGECOMBE COUNTY, N.C.

Of all patriots in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, during the Revolutionary War period none gave more distinguished service than Colonel Exum Lewis. In the year 1776 he was appointed colonel of the Edgecombe County militia, succeeding Col. William Haywood, in which capacity he rendered unfailing aid to the cause of freedom and liberty.

The family of Col. Exum Lewis was among the first to settle in Edgecombe County, coming from the neighboring state of Virginia in the early days of the county. As early as 1760 Richard Lewis, the father of Exum Lewis, is mentioned as serving on the grand jury for a special session of Court held in the vicinity of Tyrannocum Creek, later known as Cokey Swamp. At this same session of Court another prominent citizen of early Edgecombe took his oath as a Justice of the Peace, Elisha Battle.

(References for historical data above: Turner-Bridges History of Edgecombe Co, pages 65 and 91 respectively.)

Very little is known of the brothers and sisters of Col. Exum Lewis. But it is of record that Col. Lewis himself married Elizabeth Figures, of a fine Southampton County, Virginia, family and they reared a large family in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. Col. Lewis died in the year 1796 leaving his wife Elizabeth and the following children:

- I Edwin Lewis. He married a Miss Driver and in 1803 moved his family to Baldwin County, Alabama where both died prior to 1819 leaving the following issues:
 - A. Robert who died unmarried.
 - B. Nancy who married Isham B. Phillips.
 - C. Sally married Joseph Kennedy.
 - D. Rebecca married first William Trotter, married second James E. Moore.
 - E. Franklin married in 1840 in Fayette County, Texas.
- II Bartholomew Lewis married Catherine Wiggins, a sister of Mason Lee Wiggins of Halifax County, N.C. and had the following issues:
 - A. George Washington Lewis, born 2-22-1809, married in 1865 Agnes Parks and had the following issues:
 1. George Exum Lewis, born 4-27-1865.
 2. Mary Penn Lewis, born 10-14-1866.
 3. Bartholomew Eaton Lewis, born 12-11-1869.
 4. Thomas Wiggins Lewis, born 9-25-1873.
 - B. Margaret F.A. Lewis, born 3-26-1812. (Descendants not recorded).

III Green Lewis, in his father's will was left a plantation on Swife Creek. He died in 1814. Married Martha (or Patsy) Wiggins, sister to Catherine. Their issue:

- A. Sallie Adeline married Willie W. Jones of Louisburg, N.C.
- B. Dr. Henry Exum Lewis of Edgecombe County, N.C.
- C. Eliza Lewis married Edwin Harris of Granville County, N.C.
- D. Willie Lewis died in Tyrrell County, N.C. No issue.
- E. Thomas Lewis moved to South Carolina and left descendants in that state.

IV Exum Lewis, Jr. died in Edgecombe County in 1839. He married Ann Harrison, descendant of Benjamin Harrison of Virginia. She was sister to Richard Harrison, who died a very wealthy bachelor in Edgecombe County in 1856, leaving his nephew Kenelm Lewis the fine old brick home on the outskirts of Rocky Mount, N.C. now called "the Lewis Place". This home was originally owned, and built, by Bennett Bunn and sold after his death at public sale to Richard Harrison. The children of Exum Lewis Jr. and his wife Ann:

A. Dr. John Wesley Lewis, who married Catherine A. Battle and had the following issue:

1. Joel Battle Lewis, born 1-14-1830, died 3-18-1870. He never married.
2. Dr. Richard Henry Lewis, born 12-21-1832 and settled in Kinston, N.C. Married first Virginia Cull of Washington, D.C. Married second Ella Batts of Halifax County, Va. Their issue:
 - a. Katie Lewis
 - b. Elisha Lewis
 - c. Willie Lewis.

3. General William Gaston Lewis, C.S.A. born 9-3-1835 married 3-15-1864 Martha (Mittie) Laura Pender, born 5-14-1840, the daughter of J.J.B. Pender and Elizabeth Priscilla (Mason) Pender of Tarboro, N.C. Their issue:

- a. Lizzie Lewis
- b. Anna Lewis
- c. Gaston Lewis
- d. Laura Lewis
- e. James Lewis
- f. Spencer Lewis
- g. Mittie Lewis.

4. Exum Lewis, born 11-5-1837. Married first Louisa Hall, married second Fannie Walker. No issue from either union.

5. Christopher Columbus Lewis, born 2-20-1845 married

11-17-1868 Annie Y. Cook. Their issue:

- a. Katie Lewis
- b. Harry Lewis
- c. Guy Lewis.

6. Anna Harrison Lewis, born 10-4-1841. In 1868 married Professor Luther Rice Mills of Halifax Co. Virginia. Issue:

- a. Kate Mills
- b. John Mills
- c. Lucy Mills.

B. Dr Exum Lewis, III, married Jane Cotton, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Andrews) Cotton. Their issue:

- 1. Cleo Cotton Lewis who married John Francis Speight, son of Rev. John Francis Speight of Greene Co., N.C. Several children to this union.

C. Richard Henry Lewis. He married first in 1832 Mary Foreman who died 9-24-1840 leaving the following issue:

- 1. Ivey Foreman Lewis, born 2-4-1833
- 2. Ann Harrison Lewis, born 6-2-1835
- 3. Mary Foreman Lewis, born 5-13-1838 an 1-13-1864 married General William H. Hardee, C.S.A. No issue.
- 4. Richard Henry Lewis Jr, born 5-23-1840 died young.

Richard Henry Lewis married the second time on 6-5-1849 Mrs. Martha Elizabeth (Hoskins) Foreman, widow of John Foreman. She died prior to 1857 leaving the following issue:

- 5. Richard Henry Lewis Jr., born 2-18-1850 died 8-6-1926, married 2-13-1877 Cornelia Viola Battle, born 1-14-1857 died 10-13-1886, the daughter of Kemp Plummer and Martha Ann Battle. Their issue:

- a. Richard Henry Lewis, born 2-18-1878 married 6-30-1909 Mary Weldon Huske They have three children, Martha Battle born 1910, Richard Henry born 1912, Eliza Huske, born 1915.
- b. Martha Battle Lewis, born 3-22-1879 died 9-3-1906. Married Dr. Isaac Hill Manning but left no issue.
- c. Kemp Plummer Lewis, born 9-12-1880. Married 4-18-1912 Lottie Hays Sharpe. Have four children.
- d. Ivey Foreman Lewis, born 8-31-1882.

7

On 6-9-1909 married Margaret Hunter.
They have three children.

After the death of Cornelia Viola (Battle) Lewis,
Richard Henry Lewis married second on 4-16-1890
Mary Long Gordon who died 8-30-1895 leaving issue:
Nell Battle Lewis of Raleigh, N.C.

Richard Henry Lewis married the third time on 10-27-1897
Annie Blackwell Foreman who died 10-30-1917. No Issue.

(Note: See footnote (1) at conclusion of this article for data
concerning Richard Henry Lewis Sr, son of Exum Lewis Jr.)

D. Kenelm H. Lewis, son of Exum Lewis Jr., inherited "the Lewis
Place" from his uncle Richard Harrison. He married Elizabeth,
daughter of Hon. John H. Bryan of Raleigh, N.C. They lived
near Rocky Mount in the old Lewis place. Issue:

1. John Lewis, never married
2. Anna Lewis, never married.

E. William Figures Lewis married Ann Eliza, daughter of David
Barlow and widow of Frank Foxhall of Edgecombe Co. N.C.

F. Elizabeth Figures Lewis married Spier Whitaker. This family
moved to Davenport, Iowa. Their descendants live there today.

G. Mary Ann Lewis married Thomas Hunter. Their issue:

1. Dr. Exum Hunter
2. Patty Hunter married Dr. Harris of Henderson, N.C.
issue:

Mary Harris

3. Lucy married Mr. Wilson and moved to Iowa.

H. Emma Lewis married Rev. John Francis Speight of Greene Co., N.C.
Their issue:

1. John Francis Speight married his cousin Cleo Cotton
Lewis. Their issue:

- a. Emma Lewis Speight never married.
- b. John Francis Speight married Addie Lewis
- c. Elizabeth Speight married Rev. Carey Whitaker.
Their issue:
Carey Whitaker
Richard Whitaker
Margaret Whitaker married Graham Horne
of Rocky Mount, N.C.

2. Dr. Richard Harrison Speight married Margaret Powell,
daughter of Jesse Powell and Mary Harrison Powell
of Edgecombe County, N.C. Their issue:

- a. Robert Powell Speight married Alice Hopkins of Reidsville, N.C. No issue.
- b. Henry Lewis Speight married Annie Sugg. No issue.
- c. Frances Wimberly Speight married Caswell Sugg, issue:
Caswell Sugg
Joseph Sugg.
- d. Mary Powell Speight has never married.
- e. Dr Richard Harrison Speight married Lucille Johns, daughter of William F. Jones. Issue:
Mary Powell Speight
Richard Harrison Speight.
- f. Jesse Powell Speight married James P. Bunn of Battleboro, N.C. Issue:
James, Richard, Margaret and Sarah Bunn.
- g. Dr. Joseph Powell Speight married Elizabeth Woodson of Virginia. Issue:
Nelle, Elizabeth and Joseph Powell Speight Jr.
- h. George Wimberly Speight married and moved to Louisiana.
- i. Seth Exum Speight married Marie Adcock of Nash Co. N.C.
Several children to this union.
- j. John Francis Speight never married.
- k. James Ambler Speight (Dr.) married Mavis Griffin.
Issue:
Martha Ann and Margaret Speight.
- l. Elias Carr Speight married Alice Dawson of Tarboro, N.C.
Several children to this union.

3. Seth Speight married first a Miss Pittman, married second Alice Barlow, sister to Ann Elisa Barlow.

4. Wesley Speight died in childhood.

V Figures Lewis, son of Col. Exum Lewis. No record of descendants.

VI Rebecca Lewis, daughter of Col. Exum Lewis, married Jesse Johnston and moved to Tennessee. Issue

- A. Exum Johnston. No issue.
- B. Elizabeth Johnston married George Roberts. No issue.
- C. Mary Lewis Johnston married O.G. Finlay.
- D. Sarah Johnston married Lee Blackmore.

(Note: the families above all lived in Tennessee, Arkansas and Illinois.)

VII Elizabeth, daughter of Col. Exum Lewis, married John Ray and moved to Mt. Sterling, Kentucky. Issue:

A. Dr. Lewis H. Ray of Paris, Ky. Had the following issue:

- 1. Dr. John D. Ray
- 2. William F. Ray
- 3. James Edwin Ray
- 4. Charles Ray.

9

In 1844 Dr. Ray's wife died and he married Miss Langhorne in 1852. She was a granddaughter of John Hart, signer of the Declaration of Independence from New Jersey.

VIII Jane Lewis, daughter of Col Exum Lewis, married a Phillips.
Issue:

- A. Charlotte married first Mr. Gray. Married second John L. Jackson. Married third John D. Ward. She had children but they died without issue.
- B. Exum Phillips, of Nash County, N.C. married Sarah Nicholson. Issue:
 1. Dr. Ethelread Phillips of Marianne, Florida, died in 1870.
 2. John Phillips died without issue in Savannah, Georgia.
 3. Timothy Phillips settled in Buftala, Alabama.
 4. Penelope married Robert W. Halstead of Griffin, Georgia.
- C. Figures Phillips married and left several children, all of whom moved away from North Carolina.

IX Sally Ann Figures Lewis, daughter of Col Exum Lewis, married first in 1788 Rev. William Lowe. She was born 1769 died 8-15-1830.
Issue by Rev. Lowe:

- A. Mary Lewis Lowe born 12-19-1788 died 7-15-1791.
- B. Exum Lewis Lowe born 1790 died 1834 married Elizabeth Sessions of Tarboro, N.C. in 1821.
- C. Figures Lowe born 11-14-1792 married first Zilpha Powell, widow of Cotton Powell and daughter of John Taylor of Martin Co. N.C. He married after her death in 1834 he married Ann Maria Crowell in 1835 and moved to Mississippi.
- D. Sally Ann Figures Lowe born 8-25-1825 married first Stephen Lowe in 1844. He died in 1851 and she married second in 1852 Stephen Arme' Decatur Graves. Their issue:
 1. Arme' Graves born 1854
 2. William Figures Graves born 1855
 3. Josephine Graves born 1858
 4. Paul Graves born 1856
 5. Corrinne Graves.

After the death of her husband Sally Ann Figures Lowe married on 7-10-1794 James Moore Jr, born 1-7-1765 died 12-31-1851, the son of James Moore, Revolutionary War soldier, and his wife Selah Williams of Southampton Co. Virginia. Their issue:

1. Rebecca Moore born 6-17-1795 married Rev. Thomas Moore of Virginia.
2. Edwin Lewis Moore born 1-29-1797 married Elizabeth Hart.

3. James Moore, born 4-12-1799 died 6-5-1828 married Mahala Beckwith.
4. Bartholomew Figures, born 1-29-1801 married Lucy Boddie. *① Mary Boddie*
5. Elizabeth Figures, born 1-7-1803 died 10-5-1842 married Lewis Ciocken of Halifax County, N.C.
6. John Wesley, born 12-28-1807 died 6-25-1820.
7. Sally Hester Ann born 9-19-1810 died 7-31-1836 married Jesse Harrison Powell, son of William H. Powell who died in Edgecombe County, N.C. in 1793 and his wife Mary Harrison, sister of Richard and Ann Harrison. Issue:
 1. Joseph W. Powell
 2. William Henry Powell, born 8-31-1828, married Ann Blount Lawrence, born 4-10-1835, daughter of Josiah Lawrence and Mary Eliza Toole. Issue:
 - a. Robert Frederick Powell married Rosa Prgyther. Have no issue.
 - b. Kathleen Irwin married James Henry Johnston, Issue:
 - a. Mary Twombly married Luther T Penniman.
 - b. Irwin married Blanche Paddison
 - c. Ann Lawrence married Atherton B. Lane.
 - b. Frank Powell married Mary Horn MacNair. Several children to this union.
 - d. Hester Moore Powell, died young.
 - e. Joseph Lawrence Powell, died young.
 - f. Annie died young.
 - g. Mary Grainger born 11-3-1860 died 7-8-1937 married William Twombly. No issue.
 - h. William Henry Powell married Helen Porter, daughter of Joseph John Porter and Cynthia Ann Jeffreys Porter. Issue:
 - a. William Henry Powell Jr.
 - b. Elizabeth married Charles Blake.
 - c. Helen married Mr Mahler.
 - i. Willis Richard Powell has never married.
 - j. Jesse Harrison Powell married Elizabeth Shultz. No issue.
3. Fanny Powell married Edward Hamilton. Issue:
 - a. Charles E. Married Annie Powell, daughter of Joseph Powell.
 - b. Altmont Bracey married Hester Moore Powell
4. Louisa Powell married Henry Bunn. Several issue.

5. Mary Harrison Powell born 9-23-1834 died 1-10-1897 married William Mayo Pippen, born 1-14-1830, died 6-9-1889, son of Joseph John Pippen and Talitha Mayo Pippen of Edgecombe Co N.C. Issue:
 - a. Emily Pippen married Dr Henry Battle Marriott, son of Robert H. Battle and Tempe Ann Battle.
 - b. Sally Pippen born 5-18-1864 married James Pender, son of Robert H. Pender and Sally Routh Pender.
 - c. Joseph Powell Pippen married Sally Moore Leach, daughter of John P. Leach and Ellen Douglas Moore Leach.
 - d. Kate Womberly Pippen born 3-23-1869 died 6-24-1903 married Henry Dockery Teele.
 - e. William Mayo Ipppen Jr born 6-10-1871 died 11-25-1896.
 - f. Mary Talitha Pippen born 8-27-1861 died 7-9-1862.
 - g. Jesse Powell Pippen born 4-2-1856 died 8-10-1857.
 - h. Hester Moore Pippen born 1860 drowned at age of fifteen.
6. Margaret Powell married Dr. Richard Harrison Speight, son of Emma Lewis and Rev. John Francis Speight. (See preceding data for issue to this union.)
7. Bettie Powell married Dr. William H. Whitehead of Rocky Mount N C. Several children to this union.
8. Sally Rebecca Powell born 5-7-1830 married Dr. William S. Baker of Tarboro. Issue:
 - a. Kate Baker married Dr. L.L. Staton of Tarboro and had:
 1. Henry,
 2. Adolphus,
 3. Sallie.
 - b. Marietta Baker married William Howard of Tarboro.
 - c. Jesse married Frank Nash of Hillsboro, N.C.
 - d. William Southerland married Ellen Johnson.
 - e. Lena married Dr. Elias D. Barnes of Tarboro.

Footnote:

(1) "C" under IV. Richard Henry Lewis, son of Exum Lewis Jr. After the death of his second wife Mrs. Martha (Hoskins) Foreman, Richard Henry Lewis may have married a third time Amelia Catherine Rhodes, and there may have been children from this marriage. The records are not very definite concerning this union.

References for data on the Lewis Family of Edgecombe County, N.C.

The Will of Col. Exum Lewis. Abstract taken from the Edgecombe County records in Tarboro, North Carolina.

Volume D, page 7. Will probated in 1796:

Wife: Elizabeth Lewis.

Son: Thomas, "my lands on Swift Creek".

Son: Green, "other lands on Swift Creek".

Other sons: Bartholomew, Exum, Edwin, Figures.

Son-in-law: Jesse Johnson.

Daughters: Elizabeth Lewis, Sally Moore, Rebecca Johnson, the wife of Jesse Johnson.

The Will of William Powell. Will probated in 1793:

Wife: Mary Harrison Powell.

Sons: Zachariah, John, William, George, Jesse H., and Joseph W.

Daughters: Mary Anne Wimberly, Elizabeth, Sarah, Christian and Condace Powell.

The Will of Green Lewis. Volume E page 64. Will probated in 1814.

Wife: Patsey

Son: Henry Exum Lewis.

Baughter: Sally Adeline Lewis.

The Will of Exum Lewis Jr. Volume F page 226. Probated 1839.

Wife: Ann Lewis/

Daughters: Betsey and Mary Ann Lewis.

Sons: John W. and Richard H. Lewis.

Sons-in-law: Spier Whitaker and Thomas Hunter.

The Will of Richard Harrison. Volume G page 125. Probated 1856.

Nieces: Emma Speight, Margaret Ann Wimberly, Elizabeth F. Whitaker, Mary Ann Hunter (deceased).

Nephews: Jesse H. Powell, Joseph J. W. Powell, Lewis B.K. Dicken, Kenelm H. Lewis, Richard H. Lewis, William Figures Lewis.

The Will of Jesse H. Powell. Volume G page 496. Probated 1879.

Wife: Mary Powell.

Sons: Joseph W. and William H. Powell.

Daughters: Fannie Hamilton, Louisa Bunn, Mary H. Pippen the wife of William M. Pippen, Peggy A. Speight and Bettie C. Whitehead.

Son-in-law: William M. Pippen.

Grandsons: Jesse H. Powell son of William H. Powell, William Southerland Baker the son of William S. Baker.

granddaughters: Jesse Baker Nash wife of Frank Nash, Lena Barnes wife of E.D. Barnes, Kate Staton wife of L.L. Staton, Mary H. Howard wife of William Howard.