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GEN. WILLIAM H. NEAL was born in the extreme southern part of Mecklenburg county, near the Catawba river, in the year 1799, and died in the year 1889. He died at his residence within a few miles of the place of his birth. Gen. Neal was married in 1819 to Miss Hannah G. Alexander, and from this marriage were born the following children, namely:

Samuel Wallace Neal, now deceased, who lived and died in Indian Territory; Dr. Thomas C. Neal, who was a well known physician of Mecklenburg county and who died in 1901; Susan Emily Neal, who married the late Rev. Walter W. Pharr, and who is now living in Charlotte; Mary Adeline Neal, who married the late Capt. M. H. Peoples, who is now dead; Nancy Elvira Neal, who married the late Robert W. McDowell and is now deceased; W. B. Neal, now deceased; Louisa A. Neal, who married the late Rev. J. B. Watt, and is now living in Steele Creek township; and Preston A. Neal, who is now living in Rock Hill, S. C.

Gen. Neal's first wife died a number of years before his death, and he afterwards married Mrs. Martha D. Williamson, who survived him, but there were no children born of this marriage. Gen. Neal was always one of the leading and prominent citizens of Mecklenburg county.

For many years he was a general of the old Ante-Bellum Militia, and it was in this way that he acquired the title by which he was always known. He was a County Commissioner for a number of years and always took an active interest in public affairs. He was one of the very first in this State to engage in the cotton manufacturing business and for a number of years before the war he successfully operated a cotton mill on the Catawba river near his home.

He was a devoted member of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, and always took an especial pride in his church.

As soon as he reached manhood he married and built him a home on a tract of land adjoining his birthplace, and it was here that he spent all the years of his long and useful life. He was always interested in anything pertaining to machinery and during his whole life was engaged in operating a mill of some kind or other; before and during the war operating a cotton factory and a flour mill, and after the war operating a flour mill.

In an unostentatious manner he spent his life and he was a man of highest character, standing and integrity in his county and community.

THE GARRISON FAMILY.

JOSEPH GARRISON was the progenitor of all of the name in the county. He came from Pennsylvania in the latter part of the Eighteenth century. He entered a large amount of land in Mallard Creek section, and divided it out among the early settlers, in order to have neighbors.

Mr. Garrison built the first bridge over Mallard creek, between Mallard Creek church and Back Creek church. The descendants show a piece of his old family Bible, probably two hundred years old. His children were David, Joshua, John, Arthur, James, Jane, and Sarah. None of these left issue, except James, who died at 65, in the year 1854. His daughter, Viney, married George Monteeth, and then moved West. Sarah married James Robinson and died in the eastern part of the county.

W. Manson Garrison married and moved to West Tennessee; L. S. Garrison died young, and left one child; B. H. Garrison married Mary Ann Hunter, daughter of Robert Hunter, had eight children—some of whom were in the Confederate Army. He is now in good health, but in his 90th year. Has been an active magistrate until recently;