

Assembly at New Bern, and is honorably mentioned in the Colonial Records.

MARTIN PHIFER.

Martin Phifer had three sons: John, who was one of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence; Caleb, who represented Cabarrus county almost continuously for many years in the Legislature, and Martin Phifer, who was a Captain of Horse from Mecklenburg county in the Revolutionary Army, and is spoken of by other writers as Colonel Phifer. He had extensive grants of land in Tennessee, upon which some of his descendants still live.

President George Washington, in his Southern tour, stayed over night at Cold Water, the home of Colonel Martin Phifer.

George Phifer was at one time Clerk of the Court of Cabarrus county, and he was the son of Martin Phifer, and the father of the subject of this sketch.

W. F. Phifer, as he signed himself, was a planter, this being the occupation of all his ancestors, though he began life in Cabarrus as a merchant and was associated with the late R. W. Allison, Esq.

He completed his education at Hampden-Sidney College, Va., and his frequent trips to Northern markets, most of the way on horseback, broadened his views and observation.

He was first married to Sarah, daughter of Colonel Robert Smith, who died, leaving one daughter, Sarah Smith Phifer, who married John L. Morehead, Esq.

He then became associated with his brothers, and moved to Alabama, and engaged in cotton planting for several years. On the 10th of April, 1849, he married Mary Martha White, daughter of W. E. White, Esq., of Fort Mill, S. C., and soon thereafter he brought back his slaves and farming equipments, and settled not far from where his life began. He revolutionized the cultivation of cotton in this section of the country.

Near and in Charlotte he purchased a tract of land known as the Lucky estate, and other lands, and predicted, in spite of the jeers of his friends, a great future for this town, and said he, "In later years there will be houses and streets where my plantation now lies, for," he continued, "the prospect for a city is better than any I saw at Atlanta, on my horseback trips to Alabama."

The house now owned by Mr. Wm. Holt he built, and most of the brick was hauled from Cabarrus county. This house was prominently situated in a five-acre square, bounded by Tryon street and College street, Twelfth street and College avenue, afterwards called Phifer avenue, by the Board of Aldermen, in his honor. "I will not live," Mr. Phifer said, "to enjoy much of the refreshing shade, yet I will plant trees and others may enjoy them." And these beautiful oaks stand now as a monument of his thoughtfulness.

He donated half of the land upon which now stands the Presbyterian College for Women, and for this he was given a complimentary share of stock in the school, and this stock was afterwards donated by his heirs to the present corporation.

He had great love for order and the beautiful, and employed a landscape gardener to beautify his yard and lay off the walks, and in this yard are found the most beautiful of the native trees. The color effect of the foliage of the Autumn was taken into consideration.

He disliked crooked lines and gave his land to straighten a street on his neighbor's side. The regularity of that part of the city known as Mechanicsville, is in striking contrast to some other parts of the city.

At the beginning of the Civil War, he was a man of considerable fortune, which he had amassed in farming; and, be it said to his praise, almost every slave he owned remained with him for the first two years of their freedom and always spoke of him with love and respect.

He was always a Democrat in politics, and was an enthu-

siastic Southerner. Though too old for service in the war, his home was always open to the hungry soldiers, who in the latter part of the war filed in almost daily to have their wants supplied. Mr. Phifer was a man of generous impulses and was loyal to his friends.

Mr. Green Caldwell was superintendent of the United States Mint, and one Sunday the Charlotte Grays captured the Mint. This caused much comment by the people, as they went to church. This came near being very disastrous to Mr. Phifer, for when the war closed, he was sued by the Government, as Mr. Caldwell's bondsman, and judgment was obtained for \$25,000.00. However, through the aid of powerful friends, a relief bill was procured through Congress. Otherwise the remnant of his estate would have been swept away.

General Beauregard had his headquarters (and many of his staff were with him) for more than a month at his house, and though there was much confusion incident to the turmoils of war, yet neither he nor his wife ever complained, but accepted the situation gracefully and did all in their power to make the time agreeable for the warriors, and often the music of the evening was hushed to hear read some dispatch foreshadowing the fall of the Confederacy.

The headquarters of the army moved to Greensboro, and President Davis came to Charlotte and Mr. George A. Trenholm and wife became the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Phifer.

The last full meeting of the Confederate Cabinet (and, in the recollection of the writer, all were present) was held in the West room up stairs in the house now owned by Mr. Wm. Holt.

The cause of its meeting there was the fact that Mr. Trenholm, the Secretary of the Treasury, was ill and confined to bed. Mr. Trenholm tendered his resignation, which was accepted. President Davis then moved south and another meeting was held near Fort Mill, S. C., under an old sassafras tree, in front of the old home place of W. E. White, Esq., (the father of Mrs. Phifer), and which Captain S. E.

White, a brother, declares that this was the last Confederate Cabinet meeting.

By the second marriage of Mr. Phifer, to Mary Martha White, there are seven living children. Sons, William White, Robert Smith, George Martin and Edward White. Daughters, Mrs. M. C. Quinn, Miss Cordelia White and Mrs. Wm. G. Durant.—*Contributed by W. W. Phifer.*

COL. ZEB. MORRIS.

COL. ZEBULON MORRIS was born April 23, 1789, and died May 1, 1872. He was the youngest son of William Morris and Elizabeth Ford Morris, the daughter of John Ford, Esq., one of the signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. He was born, lived and died on the same plantation, a part of the old Ford estate, ten miles east of Charlotte, on the Lawyers' Road. He was married to Martha Rea, the daughter of the Hon. John Rea, January 13, 1814. He was a remarkable man in a great many respects, as gentle and amiable as a woman and as bold and fearless as a lion. As deputy sheriff of this county, on one occasion he arrested a desperado, who swore that he would kill the first man who attempted to arrest him. Col. Morris handed his pistol to a man who had accompanied him and advanced unarmed on the desperado, who threw down his gun and said, "Zeb Morris, you are the only man who could have arrested me alive."

Col. Morris owned a great many slaves, to whom he was very kind, and they showed their attachment to him by remaining on his plantation after the surrender. He owned about 1,500 acres of land, was a lover of fine horses and a most graceful rider. In fact, it was a common saying—when anyone rode well—"he sits in the saddle like Zeb Morris."

Below are two obituary notices, one by Rev. R. Z. Johnston and the other by the late Wm. Yates, editor of the *Charlotte Democrat*: