

Matthew Wallace and George Wallace.

George Wallace, his mother and two maiden aunts, and three orphan children, (their father, John, having died in Ireland, their mother had been raised up in the Roman Catholic faith, remained in Ireland), came over to America and landed in Philadelphia in 1784. The widow appears to have been willing for her children to cross the ocean in pursuit of a better country, and she married a second time in the old country. Matthew Wallace, who was a brother of George, came across the ocean with his wife and six children, and landed in Charleston, S. C., in 1789. They had one child born after they came to this country. We are not informed how the two families came to meet in Mecklenburg, when George came by the way of Charleston in 1784, and Matthew by the way of Philadelphia in 1789. But whether by chance or by appointment, they agreed to settle in the fertile region that is watered by the streams that help make McCoffin's Creek. They came over to this country immediately after the Revolutionary war, when the country was wild, the untamed savage still roamed in the great forests and over the prairies, where the buffalo was still seen, and the deer was a frequent visitor in sight of the emigrant's cabin.

One of the noted men of the times was Matthew—"Shacklen" was his nick-name. He was a son of Alexander, a brother of old Matthew ("Wheelright Jimmy") Wallace, who was known far and near by his occupation, who was a son of George Wallace. Boston Wallace, who died in 1897, was a man of fine sense, had no hesitation in expressing his opinion on any subject with which he was acquainted without regard to whom it affected. He was a bold, blunt man; was a prohibitionist from principle, and could not tolerate a man who would run "fast and loose," or who could court favor by sacrificing principle. He was a son of Alexander

Wallace. The Wallace family were fond of perpetuating the names of their ancestors. Mr. "Bob" Wallace, of Eastfield, is a son of Matthew Wallace, who was a son of John, who came across the ocean in childhood.

EXTRACT FROM THE WRITINGS OF ALEXANDER WALLACE.

"The old set of Wallaces first emigrated from Scotland to Ireland, and from Ireland to America just at the winding up of the Revolutionary war. The first set came in 1784, and the next set in 1789. It was said by the old set that they left none of their relations of the name of Wallace in Ireland.

"Jane Alexander was the name of my great-grandmother, which was the great-grandmother of my little boy, William Alexander Wallace; and she was buried at Sugar Creek church, with all her children, except my grandfather, Matthew, and he is lying at Sardis church. Matthew was the name of my great-grandfather. He was buried in Ireland. The tall, the wise, the reverend head, must lie as low as ours."

ALEX WALLACE.

"Jane Alexander was the maiden name of my great-grandmother, who married Matthew Wallace, who was the father of the first named Matthew Wallace. Catherine Sullivan was the maiden name of my great-grandmother, who married Alexander, or John Wallace—not certain which name. She was the mother of Margaret, Robert and Alexander. She was left in Ireland; her husband lived there. This was after the Wallaces brought her children to America. The old 'set' brought their certificate of church membership with them. They were Psalm singing Presbyterians, and their descendants to the present day still hold to only the singing of Psalms."

The Wallaces are amongst our best people, but the men were not noted for their piety, but were noted for energy

and thrift. All were in easy circumstances, and were noted for their liberality, for being first-class farmers, and several of them became very wealthy. During the war between the States, they acted the part of patriots. Mr. William Wallace, a grand-son of Matthew Wallace, was amongst the finest looking men in Lee's army, and he made a splendid reputation as a cavalry fighter; and, like many of our best men, his body was left on the field. They were a family of large people, many of them were very fleshy—not unusual to weigh 250 pounds.

It was common to distinguish the different members of the Wallace family who were called Matthew by giving them a nick-name, "Shacklen" Matthew, "Bachelor" Matthew, "Devil" Matthew, etc. "Devil" Matthew was a very powerful man, and was selected in 1845 to guard the mint. At that time there were but three mints in the United States, and consequently the mint was looked upon as a place of much more importance then as money was coined here, than it is now, as only an assay office. Fortunately nothing occurred while guarding the mint to test his metal, or we might have quite a racy story to write.