

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

HISTORICAL PAPERS

No. 3.—1892

1. THE SCOTCH-IRISH SETTLERS IN THE VALLEY OF VIRGINIA: ALUMNI ADDRESS AT WASHINGTON COLLEGE, JULY 1, 1859. . BY COL. BOLIVAR CHRISTIAN.
2. NOTES ON WASHINGTON ACADEMY AND WASHINGTON COLLEGE: PREPARED IN 1873, AT THE REQUEST OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. BY HON. SIDNEY S. BAXTER.
3. MEMORIAL TRIBUTES TO THE REV. GEO. A. BAXTER, D. D.
4. SKETCHES OF TRUSTEES, CONTINUED.
5. SAMUEL AND WILLIAM LYLE, JAMES RAMSEY, JOHN MONTGOMERY, TRUSTEES; WILLIAM MCCLUNG, AND MANY ALUMNI. BY WILLIAM HENRY RUFFNER, LL. D.

UNIVERSITY
OF VIRGINIA

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PREFACE.

This number contains the valuable address of Col. Bolivar Christian on "The Scotch-Irish Settlers in the Valley of Virginia," now nearly out of print; Notes on Washington Academy and Washington College, by the Hon. Sidney S. Baxter; Memorial Tributes to the Rev. George A. Baxter, D. D.; and a continuation of Sketches of Trustees.

In preparing these Sketches we have been greatly aided by the Rev. William Brown, D. D., Mrs. S. C. P. Miller, Judge William P. Houston, and William H. Ruffner, LL. D. These will be continued in succeeding numbers.

We hope to publish in the next number a continuation of Dr. Ruffner's history of the institution by his son Dr. William Henry Ruffner.

WILLIAM McLAUGHLIN,
WILLIAM A. GLASGOW,
HENRY ALEXANDER WHITE,

Committee.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY,
February, 1892.

his own people, and desired neither office nor notoriety. Your idea is mine, too, that he possessed qualities to impress and mould those around him, but of his works and their results there is no record that men can read. Is it not thus with the finest characters, and of deeds the noblest and purest and best? But your grandfather did leave fruit which all men could see. He left one noble son whose name was known throughout the land, and I know that he aided greatly Mrs. Preston in training her son for honor and usefulness.

“On one of my visits to Cherry Grove, he and John Preston and myself were together in the little eastern porch. It was then I first felt that I knew him—he was gentle and kind and so respectful to us young fellows that awe was turned into love. He told us of his father and grandfather and of early events which I have forgotten. He spoke of his having given up the use of tobacco after chewing for over fifty years, and John related how it happened. They were together on a trip to Greenbrier. At a house where they stopped John found a tract on the use of tobacco, which he read aloud to his uncle. As soon as the reading was ended the Colonel announced his purpose to give up his tobacco then and there. This is an incident which shows the honesty of his mind, his openness to truth, and his promptness in acting according to his convictions. . . . I delight in thinking and talking of your grandfather’s generation and that just preceding it. They were great and wise people—men and women alike. They laid the foundations of society on a rock.”

He was buried in the old burying ground a mile from his house, by the side of his ancestors. I well remember how the sobs of the coachman, his body-servant, shook the carriage as he followed the body of his dear old master to the grave. His grandchildren in affectionate respect have erected a monument upon the spot.

S. C. P. MILLER.

Princeton, New Jersey.

BENJAMIN GRIGSBY.

Benjamin Grigsby was born in Orange county, Virginia, on the 18th day of September, 1870. He was of English descent. His father, James Grigsby, removed to Rockbridge about the close of

the Revolution and settled at Fancy Hill. He was the steward of the academy for a while.

Benjamin Grigsby entered Liberty Hall Academy and completed his course about 1789. He was the contemporary and intimate friend of Archibald Alexander. He studied divinity under Mr. Graham and was licensed by Lexington Presbytery on the 28th day of April, 1792. Thomas Poage and Matthew Lyle were licensed at the same time. After laboring for a while as a missionary under the care of the Synod of Virginia, in company with Archibald Alexander, in south side Virginia, he removed to Greenbrier in 1794 and took charge of the churches in Greenbrier and Monroe counties. In July, 1795, he was ordained to the full work of the gospel ministry, at Lexington, and continued to minister to the churches in Greenbrier and Monroe until 1804, when he removed to Norfolk and became the first Pastor of the Presbyterian church in that Borough, as it was then called.

Mr. Grigsby was elected a Trustee of Liberty Hall Academy on the 5th day of April, 1796. He served faithfully until after his removal to Norfolk, when on account of the distance from Lexington and the imperfect means of communication he resigned in 1807.

Mr. Grigsby died of yellow fever, in Norfolk, October 6th, 1810, leaving an only son, Hon. Hugh Blair Grigsby, LL. D., whose graceful pen has adorned these pages.

Mr. Grigsby was distinguished for his ability as a preacher. His social qualities were of a high order, and he mingled much with the people of his charges. He was singularly faithful and devoted to duty and sacrificed his life in ministering to the sick and afflicted when the dreadful epidemic of yellow fever visited Norfolk in 1810.—W. McL.

REV. SAMUEL BROWN.

The county of Bedford, Virginia, is remarkable for the number of eminent ministers of the gospel that were either born or nourished in its bosom. Among these may be mentioned the names of Bishops Otey and Cobbs of the P. E. Church, Bishop Early of the M. E. Church, Jeremiah Jeter, D. D., and Jesse and Daniel Wit, brothers and ministers in the Baptist communion.