

MARRIAGE & DEATH NOTICES
ABSTRACTED FROM THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
∞ 1851-1865 ∞



COMPILED AND EDITED BY MYRTLE N. BRIDGES
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ABSTRACTED FROM THE FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER
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Newspaper marriage and death notices have long been the subject of genealogical interest. In 1991 Bessie R. Hubbard published *“Marriage & Death Notices 1816 – 1840 Abstracted from the Fayetteville Observer and Predecessor Papers”*, and in 1997 *“Fayetteville Observer (N.C.) Marriage & Death Abstracts 1841-1850”*. Her award-winning books are contributions of considerable magnitude.

This book contains marriage and death abstracts from antebellum 1851 through the Civil War, when Gen. William T. Sherman's Union army destroyed the Observer's offices in 1865. The Fayetteville Observer with Edward J. Hale & Son the Editors and Proprietors was the earliest regional paper in southeastern North Carolina. As Fayetteville was a trading center due to the Cape Fear River, its newspaper carried much information about eastern North Carolina people and parts of upper South Carolina. Much of the news was gathered from the private conversations and letters of townspeople or from talking with travelers. The Fayetteville Observer is among North Carolinas most useful post-Civil War newspapers. The newspaper was re-established by the Hale family in 1883.

This work is a key resource about people who lived in the counties of Robeson, Richmond, Moore, Cumberland, Montgomery, Anson, Chatham, Johnston, Harnett, Sampson, Columbus, Brunswick, Union, Wake, Granville, Edgecombe, Duplin, Randolph, Bladen, New Hanover, Northampton, Burke, Franklin, Caswell, Alamance, Orange, Stanly, Guilford, Wayne, Person, Rowan, McDowell, Davidson, Onslow, Halifax, Caldwell, Martin, Craven, Green, Iredell, and Pitt. Marriage and death notices also came from Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Texas, Georgia and others.

A surname index of almost 14,000 individual entries completes this work.



The North Carolina Department of Archives and History has microfilmed the state's pre-1901 newspapers. The film is accessible in various ways: it can be viewed during a personal visit to the Search Room in Raleigh; it can be purchased from the Department of Cultural Resources for a modest fee; many reels can be secured through the in-state interlibrary loan from the North Carolina State Library; and much of the microfilm is held by various public, private, community college, and university libraries throughout the state, where they can be seen during a personal visit. There are about 13 reels of microfilm of the Fayetteville Observer published semiweekly from 1851-1865.



Front cover: Sardis is a beautifully maintained old cemetery hidden among the trees about a mile off Highway #401 South near Fayetteville, NC. Here the fragrant Magnolias proudly represent the Old South making this a truly peaceful resting place for many.

Back cover: Blooming Day Lilies accent a stone pillar with a bronze plaque which reads: Sardis Church was organized May 5, 1816. The first building known as Hodges Meeting House was located on the opposite side of the ravine and nearer the river. The second building probably erected in 1830 stood at the Southwest corner of this cemetery. The stone of these pillars forming its foundation in 1916. The third building was erected at Linden, NC. The plaque also lists serving Ministers and Ruling Elders at Sardis Presbyterian Church.

"The Mark of a Sect of all classes, he forever remembers and cherishes the memory of his forebears, good or bad; and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation. "

—Robert Louis Stevenson

January 07, 1851

- Married in Robeson County, 24th instant¹, by Rev. Daniel Johnson, Mr. Duncan Wilkison of Richmond County to Miss Margaret McGeachy, daughter of Neill McGeachy.
- Married at Lilesville, Anson County on the 18th ultimo by Rev. A.B. Smith, William R. Ingram, Esq., to Miss Laura, daughter of Nelson P. Liles; all of Anson County.
- Married in Sampson County, on the 19th November, Mr. Abner M. Faison to Miss Susan Faison, of Tennessee.
- Married in Sampson County, on the 3rd ultimo, Mr. Thomas I. Faison to Mrs. Sarah McCalap.
- Married in this vicinity [near Fayetteville] on Thursday evening last, by Rev. Mr. Gilchrist, Mr. Henry G. Hall to Miss Emily B., daughter of Dr. Benjamin Robinson.
- Married in Sampson County, on the 12th ultimo, Mr. John Purvis, to Miss Marinda Pearson.
- Married in Richmond County, on 19th ultimo by the Rev. John Monroe, Wm. D. Townsend to Miss Laura Jane, daughter of Wm. Graham, Esq.
- Married in this county [Cumberland] the 19th ultimo, by the Rev. Evander McNair, Mr. D.W. Jackson, P.W.P. of Rose Wreath Division, Sampson County, to Miss Margaret McMillan, only daughter of Malcom McMillan.



- Died in this town [Fayetteville], on Sunday morning last, Mrs. Henrietta A. Campbell aged 60, relict of the late Hugh Campbell.
- Died in Sampson County, on the 23rd ultimo, Maj. Jas. Mathis, in the 87th year of his age. Also, on the 29th, Miss Thurse Boon, daughter of Thomas Boon, deceased, aged about 28 years.
- Died at Wilmington, on the 20th ult., Mrs. Emma Peterson aged 45. Also, on the 28th Mrs. Miranda Fail, consort of Mr. Needham Fail.
- Died in Wadesborough, on the 25th ultimo, Willis Geans.
- Died in Anson County, on the 25th ultimo, James Gaddy, Esq.; also, on the 25th I.M. Mc. Threadgil; also, on the 31st, Spratley Ponds, Esq.; also, on the 1st instant, John Buchanan, Sen.
- Died in Stanly County, on the 16th ultimo, James Murray aged about 48.

January 14, 1851

- Married near Holly Springs, Miss., on the 24th ultimo, Mr. Robert Johnson, of the Firm of Cook & Johnson of this place to Miss Jennet P., younger daughter of John McKinnon, Esq., of the former place.
 - Married near Rockingham, Richmond County on Wednesday evening last, by the Rev. Evander McNair, Col. Archibald S. McNeill of Cumberland County, to Mrs. M. Virginia Covington.
 - Married on the 24th ultimo, by Rev. R.J. Ledbetter, Mr. T.S. Jordan, of Montgomery County to Miss Elizabeth Baldwin of Richmond County.
 - Married in Raleigh on Wednesday night last, at the Methodist Church, by the Rev. B.T. Blake, Mr. Jos. Hardie to Miss Emeline Murray.
 - Married in Greensborough, on the 24th ult., by Rev. Chas. F. Deems, Mr. Francis A. Garrett to Miss Elizabeth O. Doak, daughter of James W. Doak, deceased.
 - Married in Alamance County, on the 24th ultimo, by the Rev. John R. Holt, Mr. Wm. G. Albright, of Chatham, to Miss Barbary A., daughter of John Trollinger, Esq.
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- Died near White Plains, Benton County, Ala., 25th November last, Lemuel Scarborough² aged about 41 years. Mr. Scarborough emigrated from N. Carolina to this county some ten or twelve years ago, and has resided here since that time to his death. Mr. Scarborough leaves a wife and some eight or nine children to mourn his loss.
 - Died at Louisville, Alabama, the 27th ultimo, Donald Warnack, son of A.R. & Mary McDonald, in his 4th year.
 - Died near Cheraw, S.C., Mr. John McColman, formerly of North Carolina, aged 74.
 - Died near Lumber Bridge, Robeson County, on the 27th ult., after a painful illness of three days, Mrs. Catharine Currie, consort of Mr. M.P. Currie.

¹ Researchers should be aware that the term *instant* or *inst.* used by most editors means (at present) and *ultimo* or *ult.* (in or of the month preceding the present one).

² The 1850 Federal Census of Ala., Benton County shows: Nancy Scarborough 32, b. N.C.; Lemuel Scarborough 49, b. N.C.; Ann Scarborough 15, b. N.C.; William Scarborough 12, b. N.C.; Absalom Scarborough 11, b. Ala.; Whitfield Scarborough 10; Rebecca J. Scarborough 9; Easter Scarborough (f) 8; John Scarborough 7; Sarah Scarborough 5; Emberson Scarborough (m.) 3; Martha Scarborough 2; and Amy Scarborough 10 months.