

The News and Herald.

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY.

WINNSBORO, S. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1901.

ESTABLISHED 1844.

THE LYLES FAMILY.

(From Ederington's History)

I quote a paragraph from Mills' statistics: "The first settlement of Fairfield district took place about the year 1745. Col. John Lyles and his brother Ephraim were among the first settlers. They located at the mouth of Beaver Creek, on Broad river. Ephraim Lyles was killed by the Cherokee Indians in his own house; but by a wonderful interposition of Providence, the Indians went off and left Lyles' seven or eight small children and his wife in it, after killing a negro on the outside. The Lyles were natives of Brunswick, Virginia, but removed to this county from Bute County, North Carolina."

By some it was believed that Ephraim Lyles was shot by Tories, not Indians.

Col. Aromanos Lyles was the oldest son of Ephraim Lyles and inherited all the land on which his father had located, by the law of primogeniture which was in force in South Carolina and other states until after the Revolution. He was a partisan officer during the war and fought in many of the battles. "Little Ephraim," as he was called by way of distinction, told me of his and his brothers being in the engagement at Fish Dam, where Gen. Sumter commanded, and of other battles which I have forgotten, except that all of the Lyles, who were old enough, fought in the battle of Eutaw, which was one of the hardest and tested conflicts of the Revolutionary war.

I think Col. Aromanos Lyles first married a Virginia girl, afterwards a Maryland girl, Col. Thomas Lyles (the old soldier), and lastly, a daughter of the late Gen. Sumter. He died shortly after 1817. He had a son and one daughter, viz. Ephraim, John, Valentine, James, Aromanos, Thomas and Rebecca. Ephraim married a Miss Ford and removed to Chester district on Broad river. He was captain of a militia or rifle company before he left Fairfield. He was a fine looking gentleman when he had reached the age of a young man. He had children but I know not their names. The eldest son, I think, was named John.

His death he married Thomas Booker of the same county, by whom she had an only daughter, who died early in womanhood. Rebecca married Banton Glenn. The youngest daughter married Wm. Worley of Chester District, who soon after died, leaving one daughter, who married Capt. Thos. Burton, who died in July, 1854, at Glenn Springs. His widow and her mother still living near Newberry court house.

John Lyles married a daughter of Reuben Sims near Mableton, Newberry county. He had five sons and one daughter. The eldest, Benjamin, married Katie Rook; another son, Thomas Jefferson, first married a Miss Richards of Union county, and had only one daughter. He afterwards married a Miss Herrington of Newberry. His third and last wife was a Miss Egle of Greenville. He died not long since and was much loved and respected. His widow is still living and married McGhee of Greenville.

John, the youngest son, also died not many years ago. Eliza, the only daughter of John Lyles, married Golding Ederington in December, 1822. He died the following fall and she married William Lyles, called "Carpenter Bill." He died not long after, leaving an only daughter. His widow lived until 1883. Valentine Lyles also married a daughter of Reuben Sims, and moved west. Capt. James Lyles married the widow Goree. She was Drucilla Lyles before her marriage, a daughter of Little Ephraim. She had one daughter born to Goree, at the time of her second marriage, who died in 1828. Capt. Jas. Lyles was much respected by all who knew him. He had three children, Ephraim, John and D. Cecil; all are now deceased. He was a consistent, useful member of the Baptist church for many years before his death, which took place in Mississippi, the State of his adoption.

He got out of place, often me to relate a story I have often heard years ago, to which Col. Aromanos Lyles was a party. It was that he was riding past a new-ground, where an old Dutch woman named Margaret Godfrey was splitting rails. The Colonel addressing her as Margaret, said: "Margaret, what in the devil are you doing?" She replied, "I'm making!" The Colonel re-ponded, "Thunder couldn't split that leg!" she replied, "By G—, I've waded under!" It was said to have been a pun log.

Thomas Lyles was the youngest son of Col. Aromanos Lyles, (eldest son of the first settler of that name) and lived a short time after his marriage on Mill Creek, then moved to Wateree creek, thence back to Broad river, where he was born, and settled on his father's plantation, where his father died in 1817. He next bought William Fant's place on the Columbia road and settled on it in January 1821. He was a man of untiring energy and fixed purposes, of more than ordinary mental calibre, fond of business and financial enterprises. With a large planting interest he combined a mercantile enterprise and associated with him self John Smith of Wateree. He commanded as captain, the Backhead troop of cavalry at the time our State

passed the ordinance of nullification and I was cornet. We were all ready to march to Charleston to whip "Old Hickory" and would have done so, or tried, had it not been for the timely and fortunate modification by Congress of the tariff act of 1832. I have often thought of the whipping we would have received had it not been for "Clay's Olive Branch," as it was so truly called. He was promoted to the office of major in 1832. Afterwards he was commissioned by G. V. R. Y. Hasne in 1832 as lieutenant colonel of the 1st squadron of cavalry organized within the 6th Brigade of South Carolina militia. He was a true patriot. At the beginning of the late civil war, although he was seventy-five years old, he equipped a young soldier and sent him to fight in his place. Major Thomas Lyles was a man of undaunted courage. At the time of Sherman's raid he was confined to bed with a dislocated hip. One of the readers (perhaps thinking that he was feigning disability) approached with a lighted torch saying, "unless you give me silver and gold, I'll burn you alive." To this the old hero replied, "I have not many years to live any way, burn and be d—d." The Yankee surprised at this characteristic speech, ordered a negro to remove the torch from under the bed, remarking, "you are the bravest man I have seen in South Carolina." Major Lyles represented Fairfield in the Legislature for eight years. He married Mary A. C. Woodward in December, 1810. They had only two children, sons, Thomas M. and William S. Lyles. His wife died in 1855. He lived at his home near Backhead until his death, which took place on the 19th of Jan., 1874, at the advanced age of eighty-seven.

"Life's labor done,
Serenely to his rest he passed,
While the soft memory of his virtues yet
Lingers like sunset morn, when that
Bright orb has set."

His sister son, Thomas M., married Eliza R., the youngest daughter of Col. Aromanos Lyles. They were the parents of seven sons and six daughters. Two of his daughters died in childhood. Mrs. Lyles died in 1897. William Boykin, the eldest son, was married to Sallie W. Stegler soon after he returned from the University of Virginia. She lived but a short time. Two years after, he married Rebecca G., daughter of J. D. Dinger of O. speaking district. He was the first to engage in agriculture

and went from home as 1st lieutenant of the Backhead Guards to the attack on Ft. Sumter in April, 1861. At the reorganization of the 6th Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, in Virginia, he was made captain of the company and was killed at the battle of Seven Pines May 31st, 1862, while gallantly leading his command to the charge, aged twenty-six years. The enemy occupied the field next morning and our men, sent under a flag of truce to recover our dead, were refused permission to enter the lines; hence he was buried on the field of battle.

"But Freedom's young favorites sleep
As sound,
On foreign soil, as native ground."

Capt. Lyles possessed a warm and genial disposition and was brave and generous to a fault.

"When hearts whose truth was proven,
Like his, are laid in earth,
There should a wreath be woven
To tell the world their worth."

He left a widow and one little daughter, Sue Bookin, who grew to lovely womanhood; married J. William McCants in 1882, and died six months after. They were not long covered for he passed from earth Nov. 1st, 1885. Their mortal remains are interred in the cemetery of the M. E. Church in Winnsboro, there to lie till the resurrection morn.

Capt. Thomas M. Lyles had five other brave sons in the Confederate army—Thomas, Nicholas, Austin, John and Bolton. Austin was twice wounded; first at Dranesville, then at the second battle of Manassas, and was killed near Petersburg, Va. in June, 1864, aged only twenty-one years. The four remaining brothers returned home unharmed. Nicholas served through the whole war and was slightly wounded once or twice. Nicholas was sheriff of Marengo County, Ala.; died 1899. Thomas is living in Louisiana. Nicholas, who married Lou Poelmiz of Alabama, moved to that State. John W., who married Sae C. Meris, is a practical farmer and was a member of the Legislature from this county one term. Bolton married Rosalie McCrekin and James, the youngest son, married Cora Iby, who died. They are all engaged in planting. Of Capt. Thos. Lyles' daughters, Sallie E. married Lent. E. A. Poelmiz, of Alabama. Mattie P. married A. E. Davis, of Monticello; Rebecca V. became the second wife of Maj. T. W. Woodward, of Winnsboro; and Carrie E. married J. Feaster Lyles, of Backhead.

Old Maj. Thomas Lyles' second son, William, was a man of fine intellect with a warm heart and generous to a fault; and like his father represented Fairfield in the Legislature; he was also an enthusiastic member of the Secession Convention. He died in April, 1862, much lamented. He was twice married, first to Sallie P. Woodward. They had several sons who died in childhood, and two daughters, Mary C., who married Col. S. D. Goodlett of Greenville, and died in Jan., 1877, leaving a son and daughter, Sallie P., the youngest child, married John C. Feaster, and resides at her grandfather's old homestead.

In May 1846, Maj. Wm. S. Lyles married Sallie A. Haynesworth, of Sumter court house. There were five children by this marriage, Sue H., who married G. B. Pearson and died in 1888; Fannie Hortensia, who died in childhood; Fannie Eliza, who died in her fourteenth year. William H., the only son, removed to Columbia, and married Miriam M. Sloan, of Anderson. He is engaged in the practice of law and has also been a member of the Legislature from Richland county. The young's child, Florence, married Mr. M. L. Kinard, a popular clothing merchant of Columbia, S. C.

McLAURIN NOT IN IT.

After Voting With the Republicans the Junior Senator from South Carolina Has Withdrawn from the National Democratic Caucus.

The following article from the pen of Jos. Ohl, and dated Washington, appearing in the Atlanta Constitution of yesterday, will be of peculiar interest to the people of South Carolina: "Senator McLaurin of South Carolina is no longer a Democrat. His name has been stricken from the Democratic caucus roll, and this has been done with the endorsement of the gentleman himself."

"Senator McLaurin has, in fact, virtually read himself out of the party which elected him to the position he now holds. Whether he is to be classed as independent or Republican, or whether he will prefer to retain the title Democrat in the official congressional directory is something for the senator himself to determine. As has been stated, however, he is no longer on the Democratic caucus roll."

"For some time the junior senator from South Carolina has been voting with the Republicans on every occasion where there was a division on anything like political lines. To Democratic friends who have spoken with him on the subject he has contented himself with declining that his votes were in accordance with his conscientious idea of what was correct, and has said that he would continue to vote as he thought right, despite all the criticisms of his Democratic colleagues. These criticisms from other Democrats seem to have aroused his determination to read a notice of his withdrawal from the caucus roll."

Perhaps, however, it is a question which has been done. He has up to the present declared that he was a Democrat, and that it would be found, when the matter came to a test, that his votes met the approval of the most progressive element of southern Democracy. Now, however, he has formally separated himself from the party.

"When Senator Jones, as chairman of the Democratic steering committee, began sending out his notices for the caucus of Democratic senators held last week, he was undecided as to whether he should send a notice to Senator McLaurin or should not. The South Carolina senator had so completely broken off his relations with his fellow Democrats and had so consistently voted with the Republicans, even supporting the Philippine amendment to the army bill, that Senator Jones was doubtful of his status, and accordingly consulted several of his fellow Democrats, asking them what course he should pursue toward Senator McLaurin. The matter was discussed at some length, and it was finally decided that the best possible way to solve the problem would be for Senator Jones to consult the wishes of Senator McLaurin.

"This the Arkansas senator did, asking it plain that the matter of party affiliations was entirely in the South Carolinian's own hands."

"Senator McLaurin asked that his name be stricken from the caucus roll. He said he did not care to go into Democratic caucuses in the future, and that he would break off all political associations with his late party associates."

"This act on his part will probably make a lot of difference in Senator McLaurin's political future. He has been tried to be a candidate to succeed himself in the senate, and has been expecting to make the race in the Democratic primaries, counting on securing the support of the manufacturing cities and towns of his State, and believing that this support would be sufficient to bring about his election. As a Republican he could have absolutely no chance of election at the hands of a legislature which will be overwhelmingly Democratic; and as an independent he would stand little or no show in the Democratic primaries. Practically all of the white people of South Carolina are affiliated with the Democratic organization, and there is apparently no place on the list of office holders for either Republicans or independents.

"Senator McLaurin's act in disassociating himself from his party places him in the same category with Senator Jones of Nevada, Senator Teller of Colorado and Senator Wellington of Maryland. Senator Jones is a Republican on the tariff and almost everything else except the money question, but he prefers to array himself with the minority. At the same time he has never gone into a Democratic caucus. When it comes to the make-up of the committees under the last reorganization there was a sort of compromise with regard to Senator Jones, according to which his status upon the existing committees was not changed. Senator Teller votes and acts with the Democrats on all questions of a political

nature, but because of political conditions in his own State he prefers to be known as a Silver Republican and not as a Democrat. Senator Wellington loses no opportunity to criticize the acts of his former Republican associates, but he prefers to be classed as an independent.

"Of the other western senators who have been more or less uncertain in their political affiliations since the silver question changed party lines in 1896, Senator Stewart has gone back to the Republicans, while Senators D. Bis, Heitfeld, Turner, Harris, Patterson and Allen now affiliate with the Democrats and go into Democratic caucuses."

Approval of the above, the Peo. Dec. Advocate of Bennettville, has this editorial comment:

"It is reported that Senator McLaurin will be appointed a federal judge in the District of Columbia. Won't some of his enemies drop their feathers if he gets where they can't hit him in the next election? And if he don't run for re-election to the senate, won't it be a tame affair, with all the candidates on the same side of the great national question?"

SENATOR TILLMAN INTERVIEWED.

Clemson College, March 9.—When Senator Tillman, who is here attending a meeting of the Clemson board of trustees, was asked this morning for an interview regarding his attitude in the Senate in reference to the Cuban, Philippine and Charleston exposition matters, he was disposed to be contemptuous and indifferent, saying he was tired answering the jokes and attacks of those daily papers which had always opposed him and whose stuff the people of the State seldom regarded seriously. Perhaps the fact that the man of the pitchfork had not then breakfasted had some influence on his naturally gentle disposition.

However, after reflecting that the people of the State might want some information the senator consented to talk, though briefly.

"The question of why the Democratic minority did not resist the Cuban and Philippine amendments has been set very clearly in the congressional record. It is not to be wondered at that these newspaper editors and the wrong view, as they are called, of the Associated Press and other organs, have often been wrongdoers."

In a consultation among the Democratic senators there was a difference of opinion as to the advisability of filibustering. The Philippine amendment was altered to our satisfaction, as far as any such scheme could be made satisfactory—by prohibiting the sale of land, lumber, mines, etc., and forbidding any permanent franchises, so that carpet-baggers who may be sent there to administer a so-called civil government will be very much hampered in their purposes to loot the island.

So far as the Cuban amendment was concerned, the minority was hampered by the fact that our members of that committee, Messrs. Money and Teller, and the latter was the author of our Cuban war pledge, had acquiesced in a large measure with the proposed legislation. They had secured a much more moderate and satisfactory program than had originally been proposed by the Republicans, and while not entirely satisfactory they assured us that the Republicans in an extra session where they would have a free hand would be still more exacting in their demands.

The Democrats and their allies among the Populists and Silver Republicans were, therefore, confronted with this situation: The next congress, being overwhelmingly Republican, with larger majorities in both branches, could be relied on to do Mr. McKinley's bidding, and in addition to carrying out the original programme in regard to the Philippines and Cuba, there was almost a certainty that it would have passed the ship subsidy bill. For in addition to this a protection filibuster causing an extra session would have given them an excuse to change the rules and provide for cloture. As it is Senator Platt has introduced a resolution looking to such a change. I think it won't be carried now, but it certainly would have succeeded if we had acted as my critics desired.

So we as a minority had to consider whether we could ultimately resist the proposed betrayal of Cuba and exploitation of the Philippines successfully in the extra session, and it appeared wiser to fully expose the insanities of the two amendments and then allow a vote.

"I did what I could," said the senator concluding at the breakfast bell rang, "in a legitimate, decent way, to get the appropriation for Charleston, and there was practically no opposition in the senate. The opposition was in the house."

"I gave no pledges and received none," continued Mr. Tillman, warming up a bit and putting on that fierce look of his. "All of the 'honorable' and 'reliable' correspondents who have been quoted to prove the contrary are Republicans who are quick to fly blow Democratic senators. Their lies would not be paraded in our papers except that it is done by those who have always hated and lied on me."

"Shall I say that you are pleased with the turn of affairs in Anderson?"
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W. H. McCraw.

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