

CHARLES ALEXANDER CLARK

The subject of this sketch was born 74 years ago. Tennessee was his native state, but he spent most of his life in North Carolina, near Marshall. Nearly 45 years ago he was married to Miss Mallie Nelson, daughter of Capt. Jno. B. Nelson, a prominent citizen of this County.

Surely there was never a happier union or a more nearly ideal home. The house is nearly a hundred years old—a typical ante bellum country seat where preachers of all denominations, and the general public, have found hospitality these generations.

There was born to this union one daughter, Kathlene, a woman well known for culture and all the finer qualities of womanhood. She is the wife of Doctor Weaver of Leicester, a well known physician. Kathleen is faithfully filling her place as mother.

"Alex," as he was familiarly known, was not only a model husband and father, but true to his church, his community his state and his lodge. From early life he had been a member of the Methodist church and lived up to its requirements. A large company of friends and relatives, the best from a large section, gathered on the day of his funeral, April 10, which took place from his home. Perhaps the largest crowd in the history of the community witnessed the Masonic ceremonies at the Walnut Cemetery. North Carolina had no finer citizen.

It was touching to see the old neighbors gather about the casket to take a last look at "Alex," who had been uniformly kind and always ready to do a favor. Shall they not see him again in the land where death will never enter?

Mrs. Clark is sister to "Jeff" Nelson and Miss Addie Nelson, now of Morganton, and to the late Wiley Nelson, long a prominent figure in Madison County. She is also sister to Mrs. Bryan of this county and to Mrs. Rogers of Tennessee.

Every heart who knows "Aunt Mollie" (as Mrs. Clark is affectionately called) goes out in tender sympathy. Mateless and desolate she lingers here for a while. But the Christ stands with her amid the wreck of the years. After all she needs no sympathy. She is a victor. Brother Clark deserves an extended eulogy from a more skillful pen. But his own life is a greater eulogy than the ablest writer can put on paper.

Will the public accept this tribute from a humble one who shared his hospitality in the years long gone? May we all one day gather with "Alex" in the land where the trees never fade—where there is an eternal Spring for excelling the earthly one in which he answered the call of his Lord.

J. J. GRAY,
Black Mountain, N. C.

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The funeral of the late Charles Alexander Clark, who died at his home near Walnut last Thursday, April 7, 1927, at about 10:45 A. M., was from the home at two o'clock Sunday afternoon. Quite a large crowd attended the funeral, the service being conducted by a former pastor, Rev. J. J. Gray, assisted by Rev. B. E. Guthrie and Rev. James L. Hyde of Walnut. Interment was at Jewel Hill Cemetery at Walnut, the last rites being in charge of the Masons, in which fraternity Mr. Clark held high honors. Active pallbearers were Messrs. J. M. Baley, Wm. Farmer, Clyde McClure, George Sams, W. A. West, and A. W. Whitehurst.

Mr. Clark was 74 years old last November and died of double pneumonia following pleurisy. He is survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. W. J. Weaver of near Leicester, and several grandchildren. He also leaves one sister, Mrs. John A. Nichols, of Asheville. In the going of Mr. Clark, Madison County loses one of its best known and most popular citizens.

He was steward in the Methodist church at Walnut for many years. In the Masonic fraternity he was District Deputy Grand Master 41st District A. F. & A. M. He was master of the local lodge at Marshall periodically for as many as ten years. He was a Shriner and a Scottish Rite.

Mr. Clark's home is one of the oldest in the County, members of the family having owned it for more than eighty years. For many, many years it has been known as a place of hearty hospitality, especially open to ministers of all denominations. Mr. Clark's highest ambition was to live by the side of the road and be a friend to man.

4/15/27

5/6/27

