

## **Shubal Gardner Worth, son of John Milton Worth**

Capt Shubal G Worth  
for the observer

Among the hundreds of North Carolina's gallant sons who have immolated their lives upon the alter of our beloved South, few deserve a more conspicuous page in our country's annals than Shubal Gardner Worth of Asheboro.

He left his home in June 1861, in command of a company which afterwards formed a part of the Regiment commanded by the lamented Pettigrew. He was continuously in service in the Virginia campaigns; till after the memorable battles around Richmond; was in the battle of "Seven Pines," in which engagement he lost several of his company in killed and wounded. The fatigue and exposure incident to these battles and march soon afterwards to Yorktown and back to Richmond, so impaired his health that his physicians advised him to resign his commission and quit the service as the only means of preventing his falling an early victim to disease. He returned home and set to work with assiduous care to repair his health, that he might be enabled soon again to return to the army. After recuperating for a few months in the pleasant village of his home, and among the mountain regions of his beloved North Carolina, he felt sufficiently recruited to enter the camp and field again, and tendered his services as volunteer aid de camp to Gen. Pettigrew, whom he so much admired, with whom he was always a favorite, and between whom and himself the warmest attachment had grown up. Gen. Pettigrew promptly accepted his services, and he immediately reported for duty at the Brigade Headquarters near Petersburg,. In a few months, however, his health again gave way and he quit the service again, with very great reluctance. He was given up with deep regret by Gen. Pettigrew and the other officers ???, to all of whom Capt. Worth had endeared himself by his gallant bearing, his amiable disposition and gentlemanly deportment.

His health again improving, he was about leaving home to fill a position offered on the staff of Gen'l Cooke, when he was commissioned Lt. Col. to the Randolph Battalion of Home Guards. He immediately went to work with great energy and resolution to destroy a band of robbers and deserters that were committing depredations and spreading terror and alarm over a portion of his county. Soon the Home Guard organization was virtually destroyed by the legislation of our General Assembly and the Confederate Congress and unwilling to hold a nominal office, which was nevertheless an exemption from service, he accepted the position of Adjutant to the 2d N. C. Cavalry, tendered by Col. Andrews, and

immediately reported for duty at the Headquarters of the Reg't in Northern Virginia. This position he filled with great efficiency and popularity till death. On the 11th of May last, riding in front of his regiment in a desperate charge upon the yankee raiders fourteen miles from Richmond, he was struck by a minnie ball in the breast, fell from his horse and instantly expired. Thus ended in the morning of his life the career of a most noble and chivalric young officer who was ardently devoted to his country's cause and who yielded up his life a willing sacrifice in defence of her honor and independence.

While enthusiastic love of country, ardent patriotism and unsurpassed gallantry were conspicuous traits in his character, his most endearing, ennobling qualities, were those which marked his social intercourse. A more kindly, affectionate, generous heart has not yet poured out its warm life-blood upon the crimson soil of Virginia. He had no enemies--he could have none. All the qualities of his mind and heart were such as uniformly challenged the admiration and enlisted the affections of all who knew him. The following extracts from letters written by his Colonel will show that I am not speaking of him in terms of un-, indiscriminate ? "I feel sure it will be justifying to you to know that if there was an officer or private in the Reg't who disliked him in the least, even ?, if there was ? who did not admire him, I never knew it. In his death there was the deepest feeling of sorrow manifested by all". "He was so good. He was so consistent--so punctual and attentive to all his duties. I am completely lost without him. He was so kind, so thoughtful, so generous, so brave." "His amiable disposition had endeared him to all who knew him, and when it was noised abroad that "Adj't Worth is killed," the sadness on every officer's face and in the countenances of the men showed too well how he was loved and esteemed. For his generous feelings, his goodness of heart, and his gentlemanly bearing, he was constantly complemented. Oh, he was a most noble man, and the greatest favorite I ever saw." "His Bible was daily read by him and never was there a more consistent man than he." "His Bible was in his breast when he was shot and the ball did not miss it one inch." The last act of his life was to collect a small portion of rations from each of his men for a poor widow whom the yankees, an hour before, had stripped of the last morsel. Before he had fully accomplished this benevolent object, to which the tears of the poor woman had moved him, his reg't was ordered to the charge in which he fell and a few hours afterwards his body was temporarily interred upon the very spot which had just been the source of his last act of charity and mercy. Alas! that such a man should fall at the hands of such a foe. It was my fortune to know him intimately from boyhood. We were class-mates, room-mates--constant companions. Neither during our sojourns at the University, nor before, nor

since, do I remember to have ever heard him speak an unkind word to any one, nor to have heard any one speak an unkind word to him or of him. He was always, everywhere, *universally beloved*. Gifted with an exalted sense of honor, he was steadfast in friendship, frank, candid, and sincere; gentlemanly in his deportment, ardent in his affections, generous and noble in his impulses, he was a stranger to envy and malice. I have often thought, that if the secret motives of his bosom were laid bare to the world, they would but raise him higher in the public esteem. Possessing a graceful and handsome person, good gifts of mind, agreeable and pleasant manners, even temperament, a kindly and benevolent disposition, much humor and pleasantry in conversation, he was the charm of the social circle. But his is gone. His merry laugh ? voice are hushed in death. His gallant spirit left the mortal tenement upon the blood stained battlefield in Virginia and winged its flight to the celestial abodes. With Branch and Pettigrew, Anderson and Gordon, Andrews, ?, Burgwin, the Battles, Adams and a host of other gallant sons of our University, he sleeps in a hero's grave, a martyr to the liberties and honor of his native State. And when N Carolina shall have erected a monument in honor of her heroic dead , let the name of Shubal G Worth be written in golden letters high above its base. The mention of that name for long years to come will enkindle the liveliest emotions in many a sad heart. His memory is embalmed in the affections of a large circle of friends and relatives, to live on ever fresh and green, till they ? shall have gone down to the grave. He leaves a wife and three dear little babes who were the objects of his tenderest love and devotion. May Heaven smile upon these stricken ones--their loss is irreparable. His body was carried home and buried in the Asheboro Cemetry with Masonic ceremonies. Near his village home he rests in peace. May he ever live in the hearts of his countrymen, while the rose, the my? and the vine planted by the hand of affection grow in ? and fragrance o'er his tomb, fit emblems of his charming life and lasting virtues. Blessed by his memory. AMICUS Col. (Clement) Dowd

**Dowd, Clement (1832-1898)** — of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, N.C. Born in Richland Creek, Moore County, N.C., August 27, 1832. Democrat. Served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War; mayor of Charlotte, N.C., 1869-71; U.S. Representative from North Carolina 6th District, 1881-85. Died in Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, N.C., April 15, 1898. Interment at Elmwood Cemetery, Charlotte, N.C.

**DOWD, Clement**, a Representative from North Carolina; born at Richland Creek, near Carthage, Moore County, N.C., August 27, 1832; attended the common schools; was graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1856; engaged in teaching in 1857 and 1858; studied law; was admitted to the bar in 1859 and commenced practice in Charlotte, N.C.; during the Civil War served in the Confederate Army; after the war resumed the practice of law; mayor of Charlotte 1869-1871; president of the Merchants & Farmers' National Bank 1871-1874; president of the Commercial National Bank of Charlotte, N.C., 1874-1880; delegate to the Democratic State convention in 1881; elected as a Democrat to the Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth Congresses (March 4, 1881-March 3, 1885); was not a candidate for re-nomination in 1884; State bank examiner in 1885 and 1886; collector of internal revenue for the district of North Carolina in 1886 and 1887; again engaged in the practice of law; died in Charlotte, N.C., April 15, 1898; interment in Elmwood Cemetery.

Speeches, in *Life of Zebulon B. Vance*, by Clement Dowd. 1897