

2600 McCain Road
Jackson, Michigan 49203
November 19, 1975

Mr. John R. Woodard, Director
Bantist Historical Collection
Wake Forest University
Box 7777, Reynolda Station
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27109

Dear Mr. Woodard:

Thank you very much for your quick and friendly reply to my letter inquiring about biographical information on my great-grandfather (Pinkney C. Rollins) and my great-great-grandfather (Thomas Jefferson Rollins)

I was able to purchase a copy of John McLeod's "From These Stones" from Mars Hill College a few months ago. Except for the information in this book, I have very little knowledge of Thomas Jefferson Rollins. However, I'm still working on this and I hope to eventually learn much more about him. I have a little more on Pinkney Rollins and when I can arrange it in an orderly fashion I will be very happy to send you copies of it.

When I am able to locate more on T.J.Rollins I will also make a note to myself to send you copies of this. I am currently trying to locate the grave of T.J.Rollins, but so far I have had no success. However, Pinkney (I believe his full name may have been PINKNEY CLEMMONS ROLLINS) is interred at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church Cemetery (known locally as Addison's Chapel) in Seat Pleasant, Maryland.

Just for the record, Pinkney and his wife

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Hester Jane Deaver Rollins had nine children, (including twin sons). I'll send you a list of them as soon as I get it together. To the best of my knowledge, T.J.Rollins only had three.

Well, thank you again Mr. Woodard. I'll keep in touch and if you should come across any more info on Pinkney and T.J. I hope you'll share it with me.

Sincerely,

Shelley R. Hundertmark

Mrs. Shelley Rollins Hundertmark

P.S. This is my "line" back to Thomas Jefferson Rollins:

Shelley Claire Rollins Hundertmark
(Born in Detroit, Michigan 6/1/1949)



QUENTIN VERNON ROLLINS
(Born in Highland Park, Michigan 11/11/1918.
Died in Detroit, Michigan 11/8/1973.)



VERNON BIRCHARD HAYES ROLLINS
(Born in Asheville, North Carolina 2/11/1876.
Died in Detroit, Michigan 12/18/1966.)



PINKNEY/PINCKNEY C. (CLEMMONS?) ROLLINS
(Born in Spartanburg, South Carolina 1/18/1835.
Died in Seat Pleasant, Maryland 4/28/1889.)



THOMAS JEFFERSON ROLLINS
(Born either in Virginia or South Carolina ca.1800.
Died probably in North Carolina ca.1891.)

From these stones
(A history of Mars Hill College)
By John Angus McLeod

ready begun to struggle with building a college for women in Hendersonville, known as "Western North Carolina Baptist Female College," which was chartered in 1860 as "Judson Female College." The stone building of this college, which still stands in Hendersonville, was begun before the war, but the building was not completed until several years after the war. For years the convention centered most of its interest in education toward completing this building and getting the college into operation. Thus the name of Mars Hill College began to appear less and less prominently in the minutes of the convention.*

The report on education for 1862 decries the ravages of the war and states that many schools in all parts of the Confederacy have been closed and that others will find it difficult to proceed. The report urges the maintenance of schools for the sake of the youth of the mountains who will need them more than ever when they return from the influences which they have encountered. The following words are included concerning Mars Hill:

The committee are happy to be able to state, that the Mars Hill College is reported to have sustained itself during a part of the year with thirty-five pupils, and is expected to open again in September with a good prospect of success.

The report of the trustees of Mars Hill College, signed by T. J. Rollins and J. W. Anderson, president and secretary of the board, respectively, is as follows:

The school opened on the 4th Monday in September, 1861, under the care of Prof. Pinkney Rollins, as President. The number of students

* The organic relation of Mars Hill College with the Western North Carolina Baptist Convention was terminated with the amendment of the charter February 9, 1885, providing that the following words be stricken out: "Western North Carolina Baptist Convention, with the concurrence of the." The charter, ratified February 20, 1861, provided that all vacancies on the board of trustees "be filled by the Western North Carolina Baptist Convention, with the concurrence and approval of the said board of trustees."

War's Desolation

during the year, 35. The new year, September, 1862, under the

The report on education at Locust Old Field (now in the bounds of the college) in the call for troops and the situation during the early part of the war for reasons above stated. At the convention this year Elder P. Rollins spoke of

Unfortunately the minutes but the foregoing excerpt events. Those living at the college closed until June, 1865, were again in charge.

Pinkney Rollins was during a period of dissolution should not be held responsible for the administration. Perhaps under the circumstances he was president just as the story of the trustees to the Western North Carolina Baptist Convention at the close of the session. Pinkney Rollins was elected. Near the close of Mr. Rollins' life he probably reached the height of his life. He had attained since its foundation thirty years. It was, according to the school of its grade in the West, tended from a wide area almost every family in the mountains. As has already been said, good financial conditions

during the year, 35. The next session will open on the 4th Monday in September, 1862, under the care of Prof. Rollins.

The report on education to the convention in 1863, meeting at Locust Old Field (now Canton), states that all male schools in the bounds of the convention have been closed because of the call for troops and that "the Mars Hill School was in operation during the early part of the present year, but had to suspend for reasons above stated." The trustees made no official report to the convention this year. The minutes state, however, that Elder P. Rollins spoke concerning the report on education.

Unfortunately the minutes for the next two years are missing, but the foregoing excerpts are sufficient to show the course of events. Those living at the time say that the school remained closed until June, 1865, when it was reopened with Mr. Rollins again in charge.

Pinkney Rollins was destined to preside over the college during a period of dissolution and retrogression. Consequently, he should not be held responsible for the apparent failure of his administration. Perhaps no man available could have done more under the circumstances than he did. J. B. Marsh resigned as president just as the storm of war was breaking. The report of the trustees to the Western Convention says that he resigned at the close of the session, July 4, 1861, and that the Reverend Pinkney Rollins was elevated to the presidency on July 10. Near the close of Mr. Marsh's administration the college had probably reached the highest point in its development that it had attained since its founding, or that it would reach again in thirty years. It was, according to the late W. P. Jervis, the only school of its grade in Western North Carolina. Students attended from a wide area, and local attendance was excellent, almost every family in the community being represented among the students. As has already been indicated, the college was in good financial condition and the plant improved. Mr. Marsh

"left the community with the praises of the patrons ringing throughout the section for a good job done," according to J. R. Sams.

The war had already begun when Mr. Rollins was chosen to succeed Mr. Marsh, with whom he had served as assistant. War hysteria was sweeping the country, and partisan feelings were running particularly high in the Mars Hill area. Students left the classrooms, and patrons turned their attention from school to war. Despite such appeals as "not to grind the seed corn" and efforts to keep the schools open, few schools in the Confederacy attended by men continued in operation through the war.

The fact that Mr. Rollins belonged to a family known to have Union sympathies may have contributed to the disintegration of his school during the war, although he seems not to have declared his own attitude until after the war.

The Reverend Pinkney Rollins was the son of the Reverend Thomas Jefferson Rollins, who, with his wife, a former Miss Clements, came to the Mars Hill community from near Spartanburg, South Carolina. The elder Mr. Rollins is reported to have left South Carolina in protest against slavery. The immediate cause of his leaving was an instance in which a Negro girl was cruelly whipped. When he witnessed the affair and saw her lacerated back, he swore that he would no longer live in a place where such conditions existed. His revulsion against slavery may have influenced his children, who leaned in their allegiance toward the Union even though they lived in an area loyal to the South. Pinkney Rollins married Hester Deaver, the daughter of T. S. Deaver.* This relationship between the Rol-

* Thomas Shepherd Deaver was a wealthy landowner and one of the original trustees, who probably contributed more money to the establishment and early support of the college than any other man. He did not attempt to conceal the fact that he was a unionist. He used to tell of a message which he received from Zebulon B. Vance, just before the famous war governor transferred his allegiance from the North to the South, in which Vance said,

War's Desolation

and the Deaver family of Mr. Rollins immediately after the

Upon his separation from Mars Hill for Asheville. In the Western Baptist ministry of the convention by proxy at the convention. His name does not appear in the minutes in that his primary interest was in business and politics. He ran a line on weekly trips to the franchise for carrying mail required seven days a week on his line. He made considerable money in the internal revenue in Asheville, D. C., where he was as an auditor in the Treasury home, Seat Pleasant. He was fifty-four years of age when he died by those who knew him for his goodness of heart, his integrity and his goodness.

"Squire, stand by the Union neighborhood, which stood located, was burned; and as a kind of Shylock.

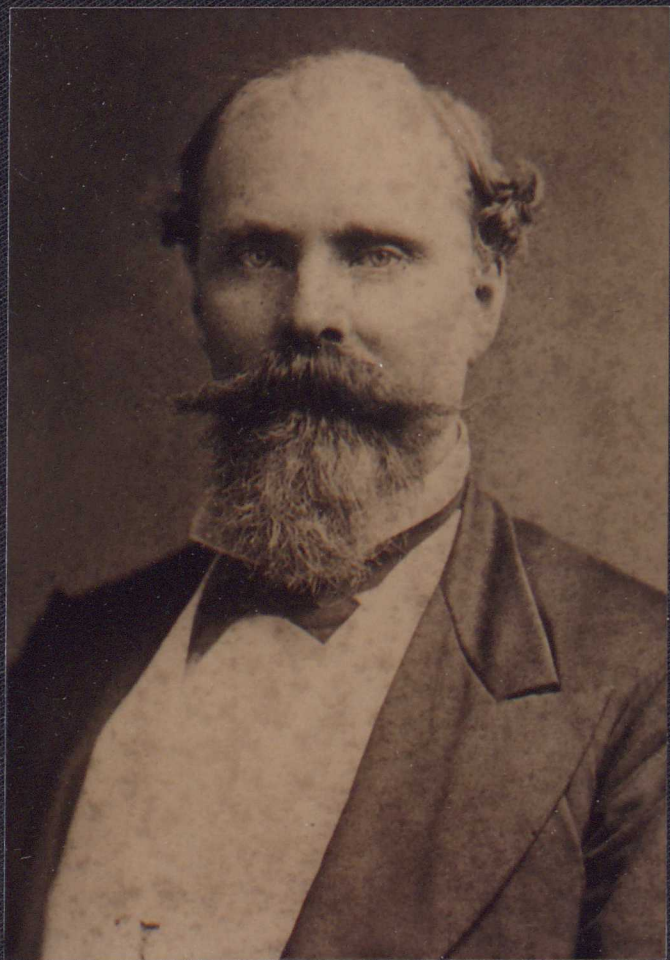
Reuben M. Deaver, a son of Mr. Rollins. Their daughter, Addie, years was a most faithful and whose children have been illegitimate.

lins and the Deaver families did not contribute to the popularity of Mr. Rollins among certain staunch Southerners immediately after the war.

Upon his separation from the college, Mr. Rollins left Mars Hill for Asheville. In 1866 he was a delegate from Asheville to the Western Baptist Convention and served as recording secretary of the convention. In 1869 he was represented at the convention by proxy as a delegate from the Macedonia Church. His name does not appear further in the copies of the convention minutes in the college library. He seems to have shifted his primary interest from the ministry and church activities to business and politics. In 1870 he was operating a hack or stage line on weekly trips between Murphy and Asheville, with a franchise for carrying the mail, at a time when a vehicle required seven days for a round trip. Later he changed the schedule on his line from weekly to daily trips and lost considerable money in the venture. He then became a collector of internal revenue in Asheville, from whence he went to Washington, D. C., where he served the remainder of his active life as an auditor in the Treasury Department. He died at his country home, Seat Pleasant, near Washington, on April 28, 1889, at fifty-four years of age. At the time of his death he was praised by those who knew him for his philanthropic spirit, his kindness of heart, his integrity, his honesty of purpose, and his simple goodness.

"Squire, stand by the Union!" During the war his mill, the largest in the neighborhood, which stood at the Forks of Ivy where Metcalf's mill is now located, was burned; and after the war many living about looked upon him as a kind of Shylock.

Reuben M. Deaver, a son of T. S. Deaver, married a sister of Pinkney Rollins. Their daughter, Addie, became Mrs. W. E. Logan, who for twenty years was a most faithful and valuable member of the board of trustees, and whose children have been students, teachers, and loyal supporters of the college.



Pinkney C. Rollins

President (1861-1863, 1865-1866)

of Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, NC

Born January 18, 1835

in (Spartanburg Co?), SC

The son of Thomas Jefferson Rollins

and Mahala Clement

Married Hester Jane Deaver

Nov 17, 1861 in Madison Co, NC

Died April 28, 1889

in Seat Pleasant, MD

Pinkney and Hester Rollins are buried in

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Cemetery (known as Addison

Chapel) in Seat Pleasant,

Maryland



Hester Jane Deaver Rollins

Born April 26, 1844 in Madison Co, NC

Daughter of Thomas S. Deaver

and Louarta Keith

Married Pinkney C. Rollins

Nov 17, 1861 in Madison Co, NC

Died Sept 25, 1915 in Asheville, NC

Hester and Pinkney Rollins are buried in

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

Cemetery (known as Addison

Chapel) in Seat Pleasant,

Maryland