

# Billy Graham's great-uncle was

THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

## buried in Confederate uniform

### More odds and ends:

■ Robert "Peg Leg" Graham, an interesting character, was born in Fort Mill township in 1845 on a small farm. When he was 17 he joined Co. B., 6th S.C. Regiment along with neighbors under the leadership of Capt. John M. White.

Robert Graham was in his 13th battle in Virginia. He had gotten by "with not a scratch" but at Cold Harbor he lost his left leg; hence the nickname "Peg Leg."

For 40 years afterward Graham took an active interest in politics, but no election attracted him as much as Gen. Wade Hampton's 1876 campaign. Graham accompa-



**LOUISE  
PETTUS**  
*Nearby  
History*

nied Hampton to many of his stump speeches. In some ways he was Hampton's "advance man."

Genial by nature and always in good humor, he was easily persuaded to perform. Before Hampton spoke, Graham would recite poetry, sing and dance, "the peg leg adding to rather than marring

the performance."

Peg Leg Graham, great-uncle of the Rev. Billy Graham, was buried at Charlotte's Sharon Presbyterian Church in his Confederate uniform. His grave marker has no birth or death dates, only the inscription "CO B 6 SC INF CSA."

■ The CC&A (Charlotte, Columbia & Augusta) railroad which had served Rock Hill and Fort Mill since 1851 became part of the Southern Railway in 1894. A few years after Winthrop College came to Rock Hill in 1895, the Southern began stopping on Winthrop's back campus and sent a ticket agent to Main Building to sell

tickets before every Winthrop holiday.

In early June 1908 Winthrop students were preparing to go home as soon as their examinations were over. The Southern rolled a baggage car to the back campus to handle the trunks brought to the platform by Winthrop workers. About 100 trunks were loaded and ready for an early morning departure.

At 12:45 a.m. a fire broke out in the baggage car when someone overturned a lamp. The Rock Hill Fire Department responded, but all trunks were lost. Insurance paid for up to \$100 per trunk. The loss

of railroad car and students' trunks was nearly \$15,000.

■ The highest point between Charlotte and Columbia is at Flint Hill Church north of Fort Mill, close to the N.C. line. It is exactly 700 feet above sea level at a point on the old road that runs in front of the church.

■ Tradition has it that a slave belonging to Isaac Withers (1744-1814) saved the life of James Knox Polk when a boy. It seems that young Jimmy Polk, a future president of the United States, was swimming in Sugar Creek near Withers' home a mile east of Flint Hill Baptist Church, north of Fort

Mill. The boy is said to have gone under twice before he was rescued by the slave.

■ David Anderson, a teacher living in Gold Hill community north of Fort Mill, taught in a school at Blackstock's church after the Civil War. He would bring pea vines and bean vines to school and teach the children they were agriculturally valuable. The old folks shook their heads and thought the teacher was crazy. Years later, soil experts proved Anderson had been right when he said peas and beans added to the fertility of the soil rather than taking from it.