

THE TIDEWATER

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FRANKLIN, SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

MISS MATTIE TYLER, GRANDDAUGHTER OF JOHN TYLER, IS DEAD

The death in Courtland on Wednesday of this week of Miss Mattie Tyler, granddaughter of President John Tyler of the United States, severs a link with the Old Virginia of the forties and brings to a quiet close the long life of a lady of the old school in whose veins coursed the blood of prominent and illustrious Virginians on both sides of her house.

Miss Martha Rochelle Tyler was born March 1, 1846, in the village of "Jerusalem," (as Courtland was known at that time), the daughter of John Tyler, son of the President, and Mrs. Martha Rochelle Tyler. The place of her birth was the old Tyler home, the residence now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Parker near the Courthouse. Her father was the oldest son of President John Tyler and his first wife, Letitia Christian. A fact of unusual historical interest in the Rochelle family was the career of Captain James H. Rochelle, Confederate States Navy, an uncle of Miss Mattie Tyler's. After the War Between the States, Captain Rochelle, like many other young Southerners of his day, who could not submit to the humiliation of remaining in the defeated and prostrate South, offered his sword and skill to another country. He received a commission to organize a navy for Peru and was ranking admiral in the fleet of that South American republic. Miss Tyler had a brother, James R. Tyler, who died in Richmond about 20 years ago and one sister, Miss Letitia Christian Tyler, who became the wife of the late General William B. Shands, a prominent figure of his day in the Old Dominion, and the father of the late Senator William Shands, also of Courtland. Her nearest relatives are the children of Senator Shands, William R. Shands of Richmond, Miss Letitia Shands, who teaches in Petersburg and Miss Bessie Shands of Courtland.

During the presidency of her illustrious grandfather, her father, John Tyler, Jr., acted as secretary for his father in the city of Washington and maintained his residence there until his death in 1896. At that time Miss Mattie removed to Courtland and in 1897 was appointed Postmistress for the town by President McKinley, a position she held until the year 1914 in the first Wilson administration, when changes in the civil-service regulations made her ineligible to longer hold the office. It will be remembered that during the administration of President Roosevelt when she was about to lose her position, an appeal to the President in person by Miss Mattie resulted in her retaining the office.

Miss Mattie, as she was familiarly called by all her friends, was a woman of unusual interest and intellect. She possessed a marvelous store of historical information with reference to her grandfather's time as Vice President, as President and later as a member of the Confederate Congress. She was well versed in the history of the Confederacy, and during the war was a nurse to wounded Confederate soldiers in the town of Courtland, the old Baptist Church still standing on the Main Street of that town being converted into a hospital. A monument was erected to Texas soldiers of Hood's Brigade by the Texas Division, U. D. C., a few years ago in the burying ground in the rear of the old church, and the

information leading to the burial place of these heroes from the Far South and the subsequent erection of the monument was supplied by Miss Tyler. She was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution as well as of the Daughters of the Confederacy, and to those interested in the history of our county, the State and the South, she was a never-failing source of information and interest.

A communicant of the Episcopal Church, the services of that church were conducted from her late home in Courtland yesterday afternoon by the Right Reverend A. C. Thompson of Portsmouth, Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, assisted by Rev. Jas. S. Watt, rector of Nottoway Parish. Interment was made at the old Hines burial ground on the Southampton-Sussex line, the cemetery used for generations by the Rochelle family. The body bearers were: Barclay Pretlow of Franklin, M. K. Kendrick of Suffolk, Senator Lloyd E. Warren of Portsmouth, D. Gardiner Tyler of Richmond and Dr. E. F. Reese, Chas. W. Davis, C. C. Howell and Otis M. Joyner of Courtland. The honorary pallbearers were: Dr. Lyon G. Tyler of Charles City County, Judge Edmund Waddill of Richmond, B. Tom Meacham of Petersburg, Judge Jas. L. McLemore of Suffolk, R. A. Pretlow and Dr. R. H. Cobb of Franklin, and Dr. W. T. McLemore, H. B. McLemore, J. Wm. Ridley, C. G. Ridley, Jas. T. Gillette, T. H. Birdsong, Jr., H. H. Macklin, B. K. Basho and Watt Whitehead of Courtland.

Out-of-town relatives attending the funeral included: her half-uncle, Dr. Lyon G. Tyler, president emeritus of the College of William and Mary, D. Gardiner Tyler and Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Shands of Richmond, Senator Lloyd E. Warren of Portsmouth, Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Kendrick of Suffolk and Mrs. Maggie Stephenson of Sussex County.

Sons of Confederate Veterans



Urquhart-Gillette Camp # 1471

Pledge of Allegiance

I pledge allegiance to the flag of
The United States of America and
to the Republic for which it stands,
one nation, under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.

Virginia Flag

Flag of Virginia I salute thee.
To thee I pledge my loyalty, my
service and my life.

Salute to the Confederate Flag

I salute the Confederate flag
with affection, reverence and
undying devotion to the cause
for which it stands. Amen.