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No one who looks back over
the history of the great Revolu-
tionary struggle, can but con-
clude that where patriotism is
the dominant spirit of a
race, war, pestilence, famine
and tyrants do but inspire
that people to great and he-
roic deeds. And that
the memory of these is des-
tined, in after years, to bear
hollesome fruit is here
manifested in the restoration
of this Battle-field of Guil-
ford Court House, and in
the unvailing to day of an

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appropriate work of art,
The gift of a patriotic son
^{of North} Thos. M. Holt. The Battle of
Guilford Court House was
second in importance to none
fought during the bloody war
of Independence, and had the
results been less disastrous
to British arms, Cornwallis might
never have known his Yorktown.

Yet despite this truth, and
in face of the fact that the
noble deeds of her sons
have been ascribed to others,
and that other states have
claimed her heroes, North

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Carolina, until a few years ago, had made but a feeble effort to restore her good name, and to immortalize the memory of those of her children, whose deeds shed ~~as~~ much lustre as those of a Marathon or a Sebastopol. To vindicate the honor of her soldiers, by giving publicity to the facts as contained in the war records, in the correspondence of the participants, and by amending and correcting the generally accepted accounts of the various battles, was the motive

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That prompted the Hon. David
Schenck to write his history
of North Carolina 1880 to 1881.

Under such circumstances a
reader can pardon a certain
amount of passion and vehemence
of language, but it must be
a source of consolation to every
son of the State, that the author
does not in a single instance,
allow his feelings to influence
his judgement. On the contrary,
with a clearness and force-
fulness of expression, truly
admirable, he tells the story
of the sufferings and for-

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titude of the North Carolina
patrocks; and with clear and
sound reasoning he estab-
lishes the fact that not only on
the field of Guilford Court
House did the militia obey
orders, but that at Camden,
Compens and King's Mountain,
they were soldiers of freedom
the great Fredric might
well have been proud. No
man so he looks around
today can fail to be impressed
by the scene which is here un-
folded. Transformation, such
amorphosis is the order of the

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day. I am reminded that only a few years ago waste and wilderness here held sway, but a new spirit seems now en-
gaged not only in the old battle ground, but in the people to loose, a spirit of patriotism, a disposition to write our history for posterity, the revival of which, I think, we are indebted in a large measure, to the author of the work in question. I am reminded of the almost incredible amount of labor of which a single man is capable, when the

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heart and an indomitable energy
co-operate, as in the case of the
President of the Guilford
Battle Ground Association.
And finally that we owe
him a debt of gratitude
which will be exceedingly ^{difficult}
to ~~for~~ discharge, for, of the
lusty courage, the undaunted
spirit and unwavering
patriotism of the Revolutionary
sons of North Carolina, he
has given us an account
so reasonable and readable
that probably the most fitting
reference one could make to it is,
"Happy are they people who have a noble
history and read it."

Quinalford Battle Ground
1893

Delivered at invitation of
Whale movement & pub-
lished with the exercises
on the occasion.

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