

(Woodstock Herald.)

THE LEGEND OF THE CROOKED SWORD.

Among the many curious things, brought to America by families from Europe, was a curved Moorish sword, or cimeter, belonging to Robert Forsayth of Failzerton, an officer of King James, who in addition to his Scottish estate, obtained in 1618, a grant of land in Ulster, Ireland, where some of his family afterwards settled.

It had an inscription on one side of the blade which read, that, he who possessed it should be fortunate in love and war; on the other side, the inscription read, that, he who lost it should experience calamities and the power of his posterity should be shaken.

The sword was worn first in America by Ensign William Forsyth, of the Royal Provincials, in the Indian wars in the vicinity of Chester, New Hampshire, in 1765, whose father, a native of Ireland, was a descendant of Col. Robert, the original possessor.

Ensign William Forsyth was captured by the Indians about 1765, and carried to Canada, and was ransomed by M. de Montmartre, a French officer, whose secretary he became. He was with de Montmartre for two or three years, and when the latter returned to France, he gave William his liberty and money with which to reach his friends.

The sword, which had been lost in his struggle with the Indians, was discovered, after his capture, and sent to his eldest brother, Dr. Matthew Forsyth, then a physician in the Royal Navy.

A son of this Dr. Matthew, named Robert, came to Fredericksburg, Va., about 1772, and among his effects was this sword, which he wore as Captain, and afterwards as Major, in Lee's Light Horse during the Revolution. In 1778, Robert Forsyth was Deputy Quarter-Master-General of the Southern Army, and a letter of that date written by him from Fredericksburg, is in possession of Miss Anna Forsyth, of Ivy, Albemarle county, confirming, or announcing the appointment of Col. Ephraim Blaine, an ancestor of Hon. James G. Blaine, to the position of Deputy Quarter-Master-General of the Northern Army.

Robert Forsyth was appointed by Washington 1st U. S. Marshal of Georgia. The sword passed from him to his son John, together with his badge of the Society of the Cincinnati. John Forsyth was Governor of and Senator from Georgia and Secretary of the United States from 1834 to 1841.

And thus the fortune of the possessors of the sword increased until the burning of Columbus, Ga., by the Federals in the late war when the sword was destroyed with other effects of the late Governor Forsyth. Since then, the fortune of that branch of the family has changed.

An old fashioned musket, which belonged to Ensign William Forsyth, is in possession of one of his descendants, in Manchester, N. H.

Owing to Ensign William Forsyth's connection with M. de Montmartre, he was enabled to educate one of his sons in France. This son, Thomas Forsyth, was educated there since his tenth year. He served gallantly, at the age of 17, in the Marquis de Montmartre's battalion of Navarre in the war of the allies and French Princes in 1792 against the 1st French republic, and is described in *America Heraldica*, as being decorated with the Order of Knighthood of St. Louis, at the siege of Thionville, in 1792.