

James T. Morehead, Jr.

Researched and written by Elon University School of Law student Matthew Kraus, Summer 2011

The son of James T. Morehead and his wife, Mary Lindsay, Morehead, Jr. was born May 28, 1838.¹ Morehead, Jr. prepared for college at the school of Dr. Alexander Wilson, at Melville, Alamance County, North Carolina. He then went on to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for his undergraduate studies.² In 1858 he graduated with first distinction at the University of North Carolina. Like his father, Morehead, Jr. went on to become a lawyer after college.³ He enrolled in Judge Richmond M. Pearson's law school at Richmond Hill, Yadkin County. He was licensed to practice in County Courts in 1859 and in Superior Courts in 1860. His legal education was completed in 1860.⁴ He then joined the Guilford Grays in 1861 at the outset of the Civil War. He was elected Lieutenant and eventually became Colonel of the Fifty-third Regiment. He was wounded three times: at Gettysburg, Fisher's Hill, and Hare's Hill.⁵ He was captured at Hare's Hill March 25, 1865.⁶ After the War, he went back to his legal practice in Greensboro and was recognized as an outstanding trial lawyer.⁷ In 1865-1866 he represented Guilford County in the State Senate, where he introduced a bill—which became law—to restore to married women their common-law right of dower.⁸ He served again from 1871-1874. When Lieutenant-Governor Caldwell became Governor, he was elected President of the Senate, and discharged the duties of Lieutenant-Governor.⁹ He did a final term in the State Legislature in 1883.¹⁰ Though Morehead, Jr. never married, he was active in his Presbyterian faith and was a "high private in the rear ranks" of the old First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, North Carolina. He was buried at the cemetery there.¹¹ He died April 1, 1919.¹²

¹ G.S. Bradshaw, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, ed. Samuel A. Ashe (Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1905), 274.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ William S. Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, ed. William S. Powell (Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 1991), 320.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Bradshaw, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, 275.

⁷ Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, 320.

⁸ *Ibid.*

⁹ Bradshaw, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, 275.

¹⁰ Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, 320.

¹¹ Bradshaw, *Biographical History of North Carolina*, 276.

¹² Powell, *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, 320.