Frederick Phillips, born in Edgecombe County, near Battleboro, N.C., June 14th, 1839; died at Tarboro, N.C., January 14th, 1906 in his 67th year. He was a son of Dr James J. Phillips, of Edgecombe County, one of the most eminent and successful physicians of his day and section. Prepared at St. James College of Maryland, in the year 1854, he entered the University of North Carolina, graduating with distinction. Immediately after graduation, he studied law under Judge Richmond Pearson. Licensed in 1860, he began the practice of law at Tarboro, N.C., with the late Col. Robert R. Bridgers, but soon laid this down to answer the call to arms, being among the first to enlist in the Confederate Army. Before the outbreak of the Civil War, he was a member of the Edgecombe Guards, of Edgecombe County, N.C. At the outbreak of hostilities the Edgecombe Guards, Capt. John L. Bridgers commanding, numbering 180 men, were ordered to Fort Macon where they remained for two weeks mounting the guns at the fort. From Fort Macon the company proceeded to and camped at Raleigh, N.C., where the original was formed into two companies of 90 men each. Of one of these companies was Turner W. Battle made Captain, Henry A. Dowd, 1st Lieut. and Frederick Phillips, 2nd Lieut. This company proceeded to Rocky Mount, N.C. and, camping at Camp Battle, drilled for six weeks. From Camp Battle it proceeded to Carysbur, remaining there three weeks. Being found so well drilled, it was ordered to Yorktown to join Gen. J. B. N. McRuder’s brigade. Enlisting May 22nd, 1861, commissioned 2nd Lieut. Co. I, 15th N. C. Regiment, Frederick Phillips served in Gen. McRuder’s brigade at Yorktown and Richmond until Feb. 1862, when he was taken ill and granted a sick leave. He returned to Tarboro, N.C. and while still on sick leave was commissioned July 8th, 1862, Adjutant Co. F, 20th N. C. regiment and reentered the army serving in Gen. G. B. Anderson’s brigade, Gen. D. H. Hill’s division, Gen. Jackson’s Corps. He was actively engaged in the battles of South Mountain, Sharpsburg, Chancellorsville,
Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg, besides minor engagements. He was wounded in the head Sept. 17th, 1862, at the battle of Sharpsburg under the following circumstances: On the night of Sept. 16th, 1862, the 30th N. C. regiment, holding the right of the brigade, occupied the historic battle line and held the same during the battle of the 17th until driven out by a direct and cross fire from either flank. During the battle of the 17th, Courier Baggarly reported to Col. Parker of the 30th N. C. regiment that Gen. Anderson had been wounded and had left the field, that he was unable to find Col. Tew of the 2nd N. C. regiment, the senior Col. of the brigade, whereupon Col. Parker instructed Adjutant Phillips to proceed cautiously down the line and, if possible, to find Col. Tew and carry him the report. Adjutant Phillips undertook this perilous duty, receiving several shots through his clothing, came within hailing distance of Col. Tew and reported to that officer. While returning, he received a severe wound on the head which rendered him unconscious and necessitated his being carried off the field of battle. In due season, he returned to service and remained in the same capacity as Adjutant of the 30th N. C. regiment until Nov. 7th, 1863 when at Kelly's Ford he sustained a disabling wound in the knee, which rendered him unfit for further active service. He returned to his home in Edgecombe County, and in the spring of 1864 reentered the army again being assigned duty as Assistant Quartermaster of the 30th N. C. with the rank of Captain. He served in this capacity until April 1865 when the 30th N. C. regiment surrendered at the surrender of Gen. Joe Johnson at Greensboro, N. C.

In January 1864 he married Martha Hyman, daughter of Henry Hyman of Edgecombe County, and left, surviving him at his death, eight children, viz: Annie Hyman, James Jones, Mary, Martha Washington, Josephine, Lelia Burt, Frederick and Henry Hyman.

He was Engrossing Clerk of Legislature of N. C. 1865; appointed Master in Equity of Nash County in 1866 and made prosecuting Attorney for Nash County. Great energy and determination of purpose
characterized his work and he continued successfully in the practice of law until 1862. Was Mayor of the town of Tarboro N. C. for two terms, 1875 and 1876; president of the Pamlico Insurance and Banking Co of Tarboro, N. C. from 1879 to 1883. In the year 1882 he was elected Superior Court Judge of the Second Judicial District of N. C. serving in this capacity until retirement in 1890. A man well versed in law, of high honor and great decision of character, strong and inflexible in what he believed to be just and right, he administered the law in the Courts of Justice without fear or favor, with satisfaction to the people and honor to himself.

After his retirement from the bench, he returned to the practice of law in Tarboro, N. C. but gradually withdrew from it, devoting his time and talents to his varied interests. Was offered, but declined, in 1890 the presidency of Tarboro Cotton Factory though for many years on its board of directors. Was offered, but declined, the presidency of the Commercial and Farmers Bank, Raleigh, N. C., though from its organization in 1891 to the day of his death a member of its board of directors. In May 1894 he was appointed by the Governor of North Carolina, member of a committee, with Walter Clark, Adjutant of the 35th N. C. Regiment, chairman, formed at the request of the U. S. Antietam Board, to assist in designating the position held by the N. C. troops in the great battle of Sharpsburg.

For many years prior to his death he was a member of the board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina; in 1900, a member of the board of public works of Tarboro, N. C. which gave to the town its system of water and electric lights. During the latter years of his life, he gave much of his time and talents to the Association of Confederate veterans of Edgecombe County, being Commander of the Lewis-Dowd-Wyatt Camp from its organization to the day of his death. On May 10th, 1903, he delivered the memorial address in which was incorporated a complete list of the 1400 soldiers which Edgecombe County furnished the Confederate Army, a labor of endless effort and devotion.
He died Jan. 14th, 1906, and there passed an honored and influential citizen of the State, a brave soldier, an upright judge, a prudent financier, a devoted husband and father, a man true to every trust and faithful in all things. He left the legacy of a clean, brave, pure, true and successful life.