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Mrs E E Moffatt

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GREAT EVENTS IN
NORTH CAROLINA HISTORY.



WHIGS AND TORIES.

Sept 1902

—BY—
PROF. W. C. ALLEN.



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Great Events in North Carolina History.

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WHIGS AND TORIES.

BY

PROF. W. C. ALLEN.



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**'Carolina! Carolina! Heaven's blessings attend her!
While we live we will cherish, protect and defend her.'**

INTRODUCTION.

These names were first used in England as terms of reproach. *Whig*, a good Scotch word, means a sour drink prepared from milk. In 1648 it was applied to the Covenanters of the south-west of Scotland on account of their sourness of features and demeanor. Afterwards the name was given to all who opposed the policy of the reigning house of Stuart. In 1680, it became the name of a great political party that endeavored to defeat the succession of a Roman Catholic prince to the English throne. Later, it became the party of the people in their struggle against the "Divine right" of kings.

Tory, on the other hand, is Irish origin. It is derived from the Celtic term *tora* or *toree*, which means "stand and deliver." It was applied first to those bands of outlaws that infested Ireland for some years after the rebellion in that country; was stamped out by Cromwell in 1650. Later, the name was given to the Roman Catholics in both England and Ireland, who supported the claims of James, Duke of York, to the throne of England. After a time it came to be the name of a powerful political organization which sustained the king in that irrepressible conflict in which the revolution of 1688 was one battle and that of 1775 another.

By a slight process of imagination one can readily discern the significance of those historical names. The Whigs, kept away from the counter of royal patronage,

had, in the opinion of their opponents, become soured; while the Tories, the tax assessors and collectors, could force the people to "stand and deliver" their goods at will. It is perfectly legitimate to conclude that these counter opinions formed the basis of that great struggle which began in England, and, after raging there for a hundred years, leaped the ocean and reached a conclusion on the shores of the New World.

In America this strife raged with all the bitterness of partisan rancor; and nowhere, perhaps, was it more intense than in North Carolina. Here, party spirit ran high, bringing about personal conflicts between neighbors, in which, later in the struggle, no quarter was asked or given.

The beginning of this strife in North Carolina may be placed at the time when the British ministry began to tax the colonies. Opposition to the Stamp Act in 1765 grew into the rising of the Regulators in 1771, reached high-water mark in the resolves of 1774, and became a revolution in 1775. This last fact was peculiar only to North Carolina, for in all other States the opposition to England was in the nature of a rebellion until the 4th of July, 1776. Until that time all of them claimed to be loyal subjects of the king, fighting for their rights as Englishmen under the English constitution.

North Carolina, however, boldly proclaimed, in 1775, that the American States had out-grown their English clothes, and that American liberty demanded an American government. With that understanding North Carolina sent her soldiers to the field, and maintained them until

victory and independence were achieved. That was not a rebellion. It was a revolution.

As to the number of Tories in North Carolina during the time of the revolution, there can, of course, be no accurate estimate given. It can be stated with accuracy that a large majority of the people of the State in 1776 were revolutionists. There were, however, a large minority that favored the rule of the king. These did all they could to uphold the waning power of royalty, but did not have the grace to yield when they saw the majority was against them. Hence the hated name of Tory. They were active in most parts of the State, and in some places out numbered the Whigs. "There were," however, "no Tories in Bute." Nor in Rocky River settlement in Cabarrus, and very few in Mecklenburg, Halifax and the Chowan country. No Tories were allowed to live in the Watauga settlement in what is now East Tennessee. They flourished in Cumberland, Bladen, Chatham, Orange, and the counties at the foot of the Blue Ridge. The number that were in arms against their country at different times may be roughly given at twelve thousand. North Carolina sent to the patriot army twenty-two thousand men.

In this estimate, North Carolina does not make a worse showing than other States. New York and New England were cursed by Tory influence; Georgia and South Carolina were throttled by their power; Virginia and Maryland struggled with them as with a night-mare; and Washington's army around Philadelphia in 1777-'78 came near starving because the Tory farmers of Pennsylvania refused to sell them supplies. It is, therefore, seen that the struggle

was a gigantic one, two-thirds of America being pitted against the other third with the whole power of the British government to strengthen and encourage the one and to weaken and destroy the other. No wonder the Whigs believed that Providence was on their side. Certainly this time he was not on the side of the heaviest battalions.

CAMPAIGN OF 1775-'76.

Three desperate attempts were made by the British to conquer North Carolina, each one resulting in failure. The first one was in accordance with a deep laid scheme concocted by John Stuart, the British agent among the Cherokees of Western North Carolina, and approved by Lord George Germaine, British Secretary of War for the colonies. It was a far-reaching scheme worthy of greater genius than Stuart afterwards displayed. The failure was no fault of the schemer.

Briefly stated the plan was this: Sir Henry Clinton with a British fleet and army was to appear, about the first of March, 1776, at the mouth of the Cape Fear river. The Tories of the State were to embody and march to the Cape Fear to join him. The Cherokees and Chickamaugas were to take the war-path, destroy the western settlements, and pour over the mountains to meet the British and Tories in their grand march of triumph from the seaboard. Thus the Whigs would be crushed in the mighty coils of the anaconda which John Stuart had made.

It was a magnificent scheme, and its execution was attempted with enterprise. Clinton cast anchor in the Cape

Fear about the last of February. He issued a proclamation of pardon to all North Carolinians, except Cornelius Harnett and Robert Howe, if they would take the oath of allegiance to king George. Howe and Harnett had sinned too grievously to secure pardon from this haughty Briton. The Tories assembled and began their "march to the sea" about the same time. West of the Blue Ridge the Indians fell upon the white settlements and spread terror before them.

At each point, however, the Whigs were completely victorious, and the stratagems of the schemer came to naught. The activity of the patriots during this trying time served them in good stead.

About the first of February, 1776, Donald McDonald, of Cumberland county, who had been commissioned by the British government to mobilize the Tories, erected the royal standard at Cross Creek, and invited all loyal subjects of the king to join him. McDonald was a Scotch Highlander, who had supported the claims of the young Pretender to the throne of England, and had afterwards sworn allegiance to king George. Some years before this time, he had come with a large Scotch colony to North Carolina and settled along the banks of the Cape Fear. He, with all his clansmen, were Tories, and a very respectable body of them they made. Because of their character for honesty and thrift they were afterwards treated with a great deal of consideration by the victorious Whigs.

The Highlanders obeyed the call of their leader and flocked to his standard. Tories from Orange, Chatham, Guilford, and Wilkes, also came in large numbers. By the

middle of February about two thousand had assembled with their broad swords. Amid pibroches and shouts of "long live king George," they began their march to the seaboard.

In the meantime the Whigs were not idle. Colonel James Moore, with a regiment of North Carolina continental troops and the Cumberland county militia, was watching the movements of the Tories. He had posted himself on Rocky River, where he supposed the Tories would pass, and fortified his position. Colonels Caswell and Lillington had assembled the militia of Craven and New Hanover counties and taken position at Moore's Creek. They were determined to prevent the junction of the British and Tories.

McDonald sent Moore a summons to surrender, which was politely declined. Instead of marching against Moore, however, the Tories left him on their right and hurried on toward Wilmington. They were surprised, on reaching the bridge at Moore's Creek, to find it torn up and the Whigs in considerable number posted on the other side. But this was the way to Wilmington and they must cross.

"Lay down your arms and ask pardon of king George," was the haughty summons of the Tory leader to Colonel Caswell; but that patriot refused and declared that he would dispute every inch of the ground. McDonald was wroth and prepared to attack the Whigs next day.

Early on the morning of February 27, the Tories advanced to the creek and began to cross. In tearing up the bridge the Whigs had removed the planks and left the girders which stretched from bank to bank. Upon these

the Tories began to make their way over. Caswell and the Whigs opened upon the first comers a destructive fire. McLeod and Campbell, who were leading the attack, were shot down before gaining the level land of the other side. The men who followed them were either shot down or taken prisoners. No one could stand the murderous fire of the Whigs.

Seeing the disaster of their comrades the Tories on the other side began to hesitate. Caswell saw this, and ordered the Whigs to make a counter charge across the creek. This was done with bravery and dispatch. The Tories were seized with panic and began to flee. In their flight they threw away their arms in a vain attempt to get out of the presence of the Whigs. The patriots pursued and killed hundreds of them in the woods and swamps. Eight hundred prisoners were taken, among them Donald McDonald, Allan McDonald, husband of the celebrated Flora McDonald, and others of note. Fifteen hundred stands of arms fell into the hands of the conquerors. The Whigs lost but one man.

This was a great and glorious victory. The Tories that escaped fled to their homes and remained inactive for some years. Clinton was effectually baffled; and, after remaining in the Cape Fear until the last of May, during which time he ingloriously burned Gen. Robert Howe's home in Brumswick county, he weighed anchor and sailed to Charleston S. C., where he was again baffled.

Thus was North Carolina saved from British invasion that year.

Across the mountains, the Indians were endeavoring to

carry out their part of the programme. Oconostata, the famous chief of the Cherokees and Dragging Canoe, the cruel Sachem of the Chickamaugas, marshalled their braves and fell upon the settlements of Watauga with all the horrors of Indian cruelty. The back-woods men, however, gathered themselves together, and, under the leadership of Sevier, Shelby, and Robertson met the Indians in a desperate encounter and routed them with tremendous loss. About the same time General Rutherford was sent over the mountains with eight hundred men to the assistance of the Watauga patriots. He descended upon the hunting grounds of the red men, laid waste their country with fire and sword, and chased the warriors to the mountain fastnesses. In his humiliation and distress Oconostata asked for peace and a generous foe granted it.

Thus was the great anaconda scotched, but not killed. By the enterprise and bravery of the Whigs the plan was every where frustrated, and John Stuart was put to his wits to formulate another.

During this time numerous collisions took place between the patriots and the Tories in different parts of the State, in consequence of the latter's attempt to embody and join the British. In Rowan the Whigs organized early in 1775, and appointed committees to watch suspected Tories and report any doubtful maneuvers of theirs to the Committee of Safety. All persons suspected of friendly feelings toward the king were arrested, brought before the Committee, and made to swear allegiance to the State of North Carolina and to the congress of the colonies.

In the forks of the Yadkin, then a part of Rowan, the

Whigs and Tories were very nearly evenly matched. A military company had been in existence there for some years with Samuel Bryan as Captain and Richmond Pearson as lieutenant. Bryan was a Tory and Pearson a Whig. After the beginning of the war there was friction in this company. The Whigs wanted the company to volunteer for the service of their country. The Tory members opposed the proposition. A difficulty arose between Bryan and Pearson which threatened to come to blows. Bryan ordered Pearson under arrest, but this was resisted by the Whigs. It looked for a time as if the guns of the company would be turned upon one another. Finally it was agreed that Pearson and Bryan, on a day fixed, should settle the matter by a fair fist fight, and who ever was victorious to him the company should yield obedience. The parties met at the time and place appointed, and the lieutenant was the victor. Thus the company was saved to the side of the Whigs, while Bryan went farther up the river and raised another company of Tories. This incident shows what trivial circumstances sometimes influenced sentiment in in those days.

In the North-western counties of the State, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, and Watauga, a most cruel partisan warfare was raging. The Tories seemed determined to force those counties to remain faithful to the king, while the Whigs, led by Colonels Benj. Cleveland, Joseph Winston, William Lenoir, James and John Martin, and Joseph Williams, were equally bold in their determination to put down the Tory influence. The conflict was a long and bloody one, and finally resulted in the expulsion of the greater part of the

Tories, who fled to the Indians of East Tennessee or to the British in South Carolina.

The real hero of all the North-western counties was Col. Benj. Cleveland, who lived in Wilkes county. He hated the very name of Tory and couldn't bear the sight of one. He met them in many conflicts, and would rarely ever allow his men to take any prisoners. Whenever a prisoner was brought before him he would order him hanged, for he looked upon the Tories as murderers and incendiaries.

On one occasion Colonel Cleveland went alone to New River on a matter of personal business, and was there taken prisoner by a band of Tories. They took him to the woods and ordered him to write passes through his lines for them. Cleveland was an indifferent pensman, but he pretended to be complying with the order. He felt sure that they were going to hang him, but he meant to delay that as long as possible. So he fumbled with his pen for a good while anxiously hoping that some of his men would come upon the scene. Sure enough Capt. Robert Cleveland, his brother, with a body of Whigs, came dashing upon them. Colonel Cleveland slid down behind the log he was using as a writing desk to escape the bullets that began to fly, and the Tories fled. Some weeks after that, in a skirmish, Cleveland captured the same band that had captured him. Forthwith he had their leaders hanged. This occurred near Wilkesboro.

On another occasion a notorious Tory assassin was captured and brought before Cleveland. The criminal was promptly sentenced to death. There being some delay in leading the culprit to execution, Cleveland impatiently

said: "Waste no time, swing him off quick." Whereupon the Tory turned coolly upon him and said: "You needn't be in such a d——d hurry about it, Colonel."

That retort arrested the attention of Cleveland, and he ordered the man released. Then the Tory with much feeling said: "Well old fellow, you have conquered me. Forever after this I'll fight on your side." He kept his word and was afterward one of the heroes of King's Mountains.

So it turned out that the scheme for the conquest of North Carolina, in 1776, failed at every point. The Tories were held in check and the Whigs were triumphant.

CAMPAIGN OF 1779-1780.

For about three years North Carolina virtually had peace within her borders. The war was being fought out in the North. But when Burgoyne was captured at Saratoga, and Clinton beaten at Mammouth, the tide of war began again to roll southward.

Another tremendous scheme for the conquest of North Carolina and the South was formulated. This was more far-reaching than the other, because it contemplated not only North Carolina, but South Carolina and Georgia as well. This time the British were to make a landing in Georgia, capture Savannah, disperse the Whig forces, turn the State government over into the hands of the Tories, march into South Carolina, do the same thing in that State, and then advance into North Carolina. This was to be the first act in the great drama. Meanwhile the Tories were to rise everywhere, and the Indians of the frontier were to begin their work of death and destruction.

The first part of the programme was carried out to the letter. Georgia and South Carolina were quickly overrun by the British and Tories, the patriot forces dispersed, and the King's government re-established. Flushed with victory the British army, about the first of June 1780, advanced toward the North Carolina line. They expected to meet with no resistance, for about fifteen hundred of the North Carolina troops had been captured and held as prisoners at Charleston, and Colonel Buford's command, the last organized Whig force in the South, had been cut to pieces by Tarleton a few days before at Waxhaw. Expecting therefore, an easy victory Tarleton and his dragoons marched toward Charlotte.

At the same time the Tories began to rise. The successes of the British had made them bold. From the counties of the centre and the west they began to march toward the south to meet the oncoming Briton. Camps of rendezvous were stationed at Calson's Mill, Ramseur's Mill, and the forks of the Yadkin, where the loyalists were to assemble. Thousands gathered at those points ready to join the British and bring war and desolation upon their country.

But North Carolina was not crouching at the feet of the conqueror. She had lost, it is true, all of her regular troops at Charleston in May, but the militia was still active and vigilant. General Caswell was in command of the eastern division and General Rutherford of the western. These two officers were efficient in maintaining and recruiting their forces. Besides, there were two officers of the regular army who had escaped the disaster at Charleston.

These were Colonels William R. Davie and William L. Davidson. Davie had been desperately wounded at the battle of Stono and was home on a furlough. Davidson's command was hurrying to the relief of Charleston and failed to reach there in time. These two men thus Provisionally saved to the State were towers of strength at this time.

Rutherford, about the first of June, issued a call for all patriots to assemble at Charlotte for the protection of the State. Nine hundred brave men obeyed the call and assembled there on the third of June. Tarleton heard of this and turned back toward Charleston. Rutherford organized the militia into companies of minute men and dismissed them with orders to re-assemble at a minutes notice.

In a few days it was learned that Lord Rawdon, with a large British force, was advancing toward Charlotte, and that the Tories were assembling in large numbers at Ramseur's Mill, Calson's Mill, and the forks of the Yadkin. It was a time of great fear and excitement in the State. To meet this great danger General Rutherford called for the minute men to assemble at McRee's plantation on the 12th of June. Nearly one thousand responded to the call, and these were divided into three corps. Colonel Davie was given the command of the cavalry. The light infantry consisting of three hundred picked men was assigned to Colonel Davidson. General Rutherford assumed immediate command of the remainder. The three commands moved in concert to meet Rawdon. That officer, however, did not accept the challenge, but retreated to Camden to await the coming of Cornwallis.

Rutherford then resolved to attack and disperse the Tories. Accordingly he dispatched Colonel Francis Locke and Major David Wilson with a small force, with instructions to increase it by new levies, to watch the movements of the Tories at Ramseur's, and, if possible, disperse them. These were joined on the way by Colonels Joseph McDowell and Hugh Brevard with small forces. Other recruits were added until the little army amounted to four hundred men.

Colonel John Moore and Major Nicholas Welch, two notorious Tories, had assembled thirteen hundred men at Ramseurs. They were ready to march to the aid of the British whenever they should cross the border.

Locke moved with his force against them, and arrived in sixteen miles of the Tory Camp on the 19th of June. In a council of war held that night it was decided that the Whigs should march during the night and fall upon the Tories at sunrise. This was a bold decision, for it was well known that the Tories outnumbered the patriots three to one. Nothing daunted, however, the brave little band made the attack, and, after a stubborn conflict, routed the Tory regiment and scattered them to the four winds. Colonel Moore with about sixty-five of them found his way to the British camp, but the others were killed, captured, or dispersed beyond the chance of re-assembling. It was a brilliant victory and checked the Tories in that part of the State.

Rutherford, Davie, and Davidson with their commands arrived upon the field about two hours after the battle had ended. They assisted in burying the dead, administering

to the wounded, and securing the prisoners. Then these patriots turned their attention to the other Tory bands that were embodying. Rutherford marched to the Yadkin for the purpose of striking the Tories a blow in that quarter. Colonel Samuel Bryan, however, who was commander of the Tories in that locality, did not wait for Rutherford's approach, but broke up his regiment into small divisions, and in that way escaped to South Carolina.

Davidson marched against the Loyalists at Calson's Mill. He attacked them with enthusiasm and drove them from their position, but received a dangerous wound himself from which he was two months in recovering.

Davie was dispatched to the Waxhaw settlement to intercept Bryan, if possible, and bring him to action. There he learned that about eight hundred North Carolina Tories had joined the British at Hanging Rock, S. C. He joined General Sumter and the two planned for a concerted attack upon that place, which was done with spirit and success. It so happened that, in the battle, Davie's command was pitted against Bryan's, North Carolinians against North Carolinians. Davie charged upon the Tory lines with all the enthusiasm of certain victory. The Loyalists were routed, and driven from the field with tremendous loss. The British regulars, however, stood their ground, and Sumter withdrew his force. Davie then returned to the State with his command flushed with victory.

It had been a short but glorious campaign. The Tories had been beaten everywhere, and North Carolina seemed safe from British invasion. But an evil day came. General Gates was sent to North Carolina to take charge of the

Southern army. He assumed command about the first of August, and without waiting to discipline the troops or to gain recruits he marched into South Carolina to give battle to Cornwallis. That officer was anxious for a trial of skill with the hero of Saratoga. The two armies met near Camden and a bloody battle was fought, in which Gates was ignominiously defeated and his entire army routed and dispersed. Thus it was that North Carolina a second time lost the flower of her soldiery. Rutherford was captured with a large part of his command, and hundreds of his best men lay dead upon the field; and so the State was again opened to the invasion of the enemy.

Cornwallis remained at Camden until the first of September. He then began to march upon Charlotte. There was no force to oppose him except Colonel Davie's dragoons, who had not been in the battle of Camden. These annoyed the British advance in every possible way. Whenever a British foraging party left the main army, Davie and his dragoons would fall upon them like a thunderbolt and either destroy them or put them to flight. At Charlotte, Davie held the whole British army at bay, and repulsed three attacks. He was however, obliged finally to retreat.

Cornwallis established his headquarters at Charlotte on the 26th of September, and waited to hear the result of the Tory uprising in the western part of the State. Colonel Ferguson with a small force of British regulars had been sent to the foot of the mountains to arouse the Tories and enlist them in the service of England. He advanced to Gilbert Town in Rutherford county and issued a proclamation calling upon the citizens to take the oath of alleg-

iance to England, and to take up arms against their countrymen. About twelve hundred joined him.

Meanwhile the Whigs were not idle. McDowell, Shelby, Sevier, Cleveland, and Campbell gathered their forces together in a great meeting at Sycamore Shoals, and marched through the defiles of the mountains in search of Ferguson. That officer heard of the gathering storm and fled before it. He retreated to Kings Mountain and there fortified himself. The over mountain men followed and attacked him in his stronghold. It was a hotly contested battle, but resulted in the complete success of the Whigs and the utter defeat and destruction of the Tories. Ferguson was killed and his command broken up, all of them being either killed or captured. This was a crushing blow to the Tories, from which they did not recover. They made no further risings in the western counties.

Cornwallis heard of the battle with astonishment. He broke up his camp at Charlotte, and hastily retreated to Winnsboro, S. C. And so North Carolina was again rescued from the clutches of the enemy, and this campaign was at an end.

CAMPAIGN OF 1781.

The last and greatest attempt to conquer the State was made in 1781. In this year two simultaneous invasions were made from different directions, one from South Carolina by the way of Lincoln county under Lord Cornwallis, and the other by the way of the sea under Major Craig. It was about the last of January that Cornwallis came into the State in hot pursuit of General Morgan, who had just won

a glorious victory over Tarleton at the Cowpens. At the same time Major Craig landed a force on the Cape Fear and captured Wilmington. His object was to hold that city as a base of operations whence he would arm the Tories and turn loose the dogs of war upon the fairest portion of the State.

Greene's retreat before Cornwallis from the Catawba to the Dan, while it was a masterly stroke of war, was construed by the Tory sympathizers as being an indication of the waning power of the patriots. The Loyalists, therefore, began to rise in all parts of the State where British influence was felt. When Cornwallis unfurled the standard of the king at Hillsboro in February, hundreds of Tories joined him; and hundreds more collected themselves into companies and regiments ready to join whenever they should be needed. The country between the Yadkin and the Neuse rivers was filled with them.

About four hundred of them assembled in Alamance county under Colonel John Pyle. Cornwallis sent Tarleton into that county with a small force to enroll them and lead them to Hillsboro. Green had sent "Light-Horse Harry Lee" and General Andrew Pickens to the same locality to hold the Tories in subjection. As good luck would have it Lee and Pickens came up with Pyle before Tarleton did. Pyle, not dreaming that any patriots were near, allowed Lee to bring his force up within ten paces of him. Thinking that Lee was Tarleton, the Tory leader was about to make over his command to him, when Lee ordered him to surrender. Instantly Pyle saw his mistake and sounded a retreat, but he was too late. He with ninety of

his men were shot down in less than five minutes, and the rest scattered in every direction. That was the breaking up of Pyle's command, and Tarleton, when he heard of it, hastened back to Hillsboro without his game. Soon after that the battle of Guilford Court House was fought, and Cornwallis was forced to retire to Wilmington, which was in the hands of Craig; and later on to Yorktown.

Major Craig was an energetic but cruel officer. Soon after he reached Wilmington in February, 1781, he invited all Tories to repair to the standard of the king. He threw into prison two distinguished patriots of Wilmington, Cornelius Harnett and General John Ashe, who after lingering for a while died just as the dawn of American independence began to break.

In response to the invitation of Craig, David Fanning, a notorious bandit of Chatham county, went to Wilmington and enlisted in the British service. He was at once appointed Colonel of the loyal militia, given a British uniform, and sent back to the middle section of the State to embody the Tories and terrorize the Whig inhabitants. Just before that time the Whig forces under Colonel Thomas Wade, of Anson, had been defeated by the Scotch Highlanders at Piney Bottom, near Cross Creek. As a consequence the Whigs were drawn out of that part of the State and took refuge in Duplin and Wayne counties.

Fanning became a terror to the Whigs of Chatham and Orange counties. On the 16th of July he rode into Chatham Court House and captured a Court Martial that was in session and hurried them off to Wilmington. His next exploit was an attack upon the house of Colonel Philip

Alston, one of the patriots who had beaten him in some of his expeditions. He succeeded in capturing the house and all the inmates. Later, he totally defeated Colonel Wade and six hundred Whigs at McFall's Mill. In September six hundred Tories under Fanning and McNeil captured Hillsboro, and carried off Governor Burke as a prisoner.

On the next day after the capture of Hillsboro, as the Tories with their booty were making their way to Wilmington, they found a force of three hundred Whigs in their way at Cane Creek. With his usual dash and enterprise Fanning led the attack and soon broke the line of the Whigs. Some of them, however, under Major Robert Mebane stood their ground and beat back every attack of the enemy. Finally, after a hotly contested battle, the Whigs were compelled to retreat and yield the field to the Tories, who continued toward Wilmington.

So far the Tories under Fanning had been entirely successful. The Whigs had been beaten in every conflict. They had been driven from their homes, and many of them were in exile in Sampson, Duplin, and Wayne counties, having gone there from Bladen and Chatham.

About the middle of September, sixty of these exiles in Duplin organized themselves into a company and resolved to return to their homes in Bladen. Colonel Thomas Brown was chosen leader. They marched to the Cape Fear, opposite Elizabethtown, crossed in the darkness of the night, and made a determined attack upon the Tories under Slingsby stationed at that place. Brown's plan of attack was masterly, succeeding in so deceiving the enemy that they thought themselves attacked by a very large force.

As a consequence they fled with precipitation, leaving the sixty Whigs as masters of the field. This easy victory broke the power of the Tories in that county, and turned the tide of success against them in the State.

General Rutherford, who had been taken prisoner at Camden in August 1780, after a year's confinement, was exchanged, and returned to North Carolina in September 1781. He at once raised a command of fourteen hundred men for the purpose of driving Craig and his bandits from the State. Early in October this gallant command set out from Mecklenburg for the Cape Fear country intending to assault and capture Wilmington. On the 15th of October they came up with a Tory force at Rockfish Creek, and routed them with loss. In a few days they again encountered the Loyalists at Raft Swamp, where the Tories were again defeated and retreated to Wilmington.

Rutherford then marched toward that city, and began to prepare for an assault. Before he got in position to make an attack, he received intelligence that Cornwallis had surrendered at Yorktown a few days before. The next day he led out his force for the attack, but there was no need of it, for Craig had abandoned the town, and was at that time sailing down the river with all his forces. Rutherford's army marched into the town in triumph. The last vestige of British power had vanished from the State.

READJUSTMENTS.

After the surrender of Cornwallis many of the Tories left the State. Fanning and his minions fled to Canada. Bryan returned to his home in the forks of the Yadkin, and was

arrested on the charge of treason. Colonel Davie, who had often crossed swords with Bryan on the battlefield defended him and secured his release. The Highlanders of the Cape Fear sections accepted the result of the struggle in good faith, and laid down the sword for the pursuits of peace. The murderers and incendiaries among the Tories were not allowed to remain, but were driven out to make place for better citizens. Now, the descendants of both sides can say, "God bless North Carolina."

Battles of Revolution Fought in North Carolina.

Moore's Creek Bridge,	Feb'y 27th, 1776
Ramsour's Mill,	June 20th, 1780
Pacolet River,	July 14th, 1780
Earles Ford,	July 18th, 1780
Cane Creek,	Sept. 12th, 1780
Wahab's Plantation <i>on The Waxhaws.</i>	Sept. 21st, 1780
Charlotte	Sept. 26th, 1780
Wilmington,	Feb'y 1st, 1781
Cowans Ford,	Feb'y 1st, 1781
Torrence Tavern,	Feb'y 1st, 1781
Shallow Ford	Feb'y 6th, 1781
Bruce's Cross Roads,	Feb'y 12th, 1781
Haw River,	Feb'y 25th, 1781
Clapp's Mill	March 2nd, 1781
Whitsell's Mill,	March 6th, 1781
Guilford Court House,	March 15th, 1781
Hillsboro,	April 25th. 1781
Hillsboro,	Sept. 13th, 1781
Sudleys Mill, (Cane Creek.)	Sept. 13th, 1781

Compiled by Mrs E. E. Moffitt
1902

1862

