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ABOUT FLORA McDONALD

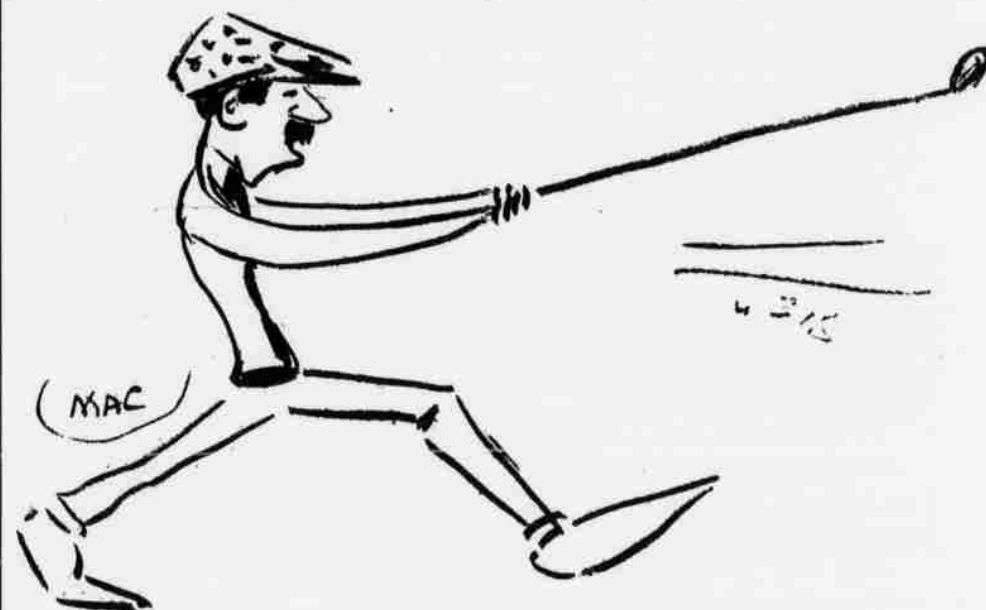
The Strange Story of America's Only Scottish Queen



IT HAS been said by one of the greatest of historians the saddest day Scotland ever knew was that of Culloden, that terrible battle which forever crushed the power of the Stuarts, and in which so many of the bravest and best of England's northern neighbors gave up their lives and their liberty, but not their sacred honor. This battle, fateful it was, meant a great deal for North Carolina, since it brought about the emigration from Scotland to this province of more than forty thousand Scotch, members of practically all the clans, who, coming to Wilmington with their few belongings, went up the Cape Fear river and settled near the head-waters of that stream, choosing as their chief place of settlement a place which they named Cross

spirits. Flora McDonald was naturally looked upon as virtually the head of the colony, and gentle as was her rule it was yet queenly enough. Her husband built on the very bank of one of the creeks, at a point which is now in the very center of the town of Fayetteville, a cabin, using for this the logs of the forest, of which the other buildings at Cross Creek were constructed. There was a rude fort to defend the town against any possible foray by the Indians. The McDonalds lived a very industrious and frugal life, as indeed did all their Scotch compatriots, and wealth began to come to them, as wealth was understood in those days, they acquiring lands and slaves also.

When the war against the French came along in 1758, which broke the power of France on this continent, they volunteered and were in the forces which attacked and captured Fort Duquesne, in Pennsylvania. The Scotch have always been a very loyal folk to an oath and they firmly believed the oaths



THE FULL SWING, AS CARICATURIST MACLOUGHLIN UNDERSTANDS IT

Creek because of the fact that two streams crossed each other there, this crossing being real and not fanciful, and this strange phenomenon having continued until a very recent period, when some improver tampering with nature changed the course of one of the streams and so ended the strange freak forever.

The colonists came over in a somewhat scattered fashion at first, beginning early in 1750, the year after the battle, but soon they poured in by thousands, and with a large body of them came a woman who had been the heroine of one of history's most notable and winning romances, this personage being none other than Flora McDonald, the bonnie Scotch lassie who had so daringly and skillfully saved "Prince Charlie," the "Pretender," as the English called him, and saved him from capture and doubtless death or life imprisonment. This devoted woman, handsome and striking in appearance and manner, came over with her husband and with a great following of her own clan. The country was then forest and the Indians were only beginning to retire. It was a new world and a new life, but the Scotch, whether Highland or Lowland, faced it with undaunted

they had taken before they left the home country bound them to give unquestioning and absolute allegiance to Great Britain. So it came about that when the Revolution came along the Scotch took what to the other settlers seemed the very strange step of standing by the King. McDonald, the husband of Flora, who had been a soldier on the other side, received the King's commission as a brigadier-general and raised the royal standard at Cross Creek, to which, to be sure, the Scotch rallied almost to a man, and they were quickly armed. One company chose as its weapon the claymore, the long, basket-hilted sword the Scotch have always loved. The patriots rose too and they determined to crush McDonald and his men. They succeeded thoroughly, for in the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge in March 1776 the Scotch were outwitted and outfought. The Scotch were attempting to get to Wilmington, to form a junction with other royal forces, the purpose of the Americans being to head them off and bring about a decisive engagement. The Scotch attempted to cross the bridge, from which the Americans had removed the planks and had also greased the re-

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