

Philadelphia to the continental congress there, a delegation to declare independence from Great Britain when North Carolina had effected its independence nearly two years before the declaration of independence was issued. Moreover, over at Fayetteville these restless folks had issued a declaration of independence from British rule several months before action was taken at Philadelphia, and at Charlotte the Knockers' Club had also gone on record as throwing off British authority.

This colony was always a pretty early lot when anything was stirring. When the British vessel came over with its consignment of stamped paper, it was met in the Cape Fear, the stamp-officer instructed to save his paper, and the governor and the stamp-officer were notified that the governor's palace would be burned along with its inmates unless the stamp-officer should be delivered to the people to be sworn not to offer any stamps for sale. The man was delivered to the mob, taken to the market-house and sworn. They were decisive in those days, that gang was. A little ahead of the A. P. A.'s of a few years ago, they insisted on America for the Americans, and they managed to hold what they asked for. Sandy Creek was the home of Husbands and a lot of the rest of the Regulators, but the bunch was pretty well scattered through this section. The battle fought by the Regulators and the royal troops was on Alamance creek, east of Sandy creek. The Revolutionary disturbances, prior to the battle, were all through the county to the north of us to the state line. The general sense of raising a fuss with the British government was pretty well distributed over the entire colony.

Husbands was expelled from the assembly. He managed to escape from Tryon's efforts to apprehend him. He was outlawed, and for a time he lived in Pennsylvania until it became safer to come back to North Carolina, but it was apparent until the war was ended that to come to the colony meant likely to invite a close acquaintance with the roots of the daisies, and Husbands, being a Quaker and a man of peace and calmness, stayed up in Pennsylvania. Members of the family settled on Deep river on the Randolph county side of the line, a few miles north of Pinehurst. You can't help a liking for the old chaps who were operating the colony in those days. In April, 1776, three months before the rest of the country had declared its independence of England, these enthusiastic patriots had assembled at Halifax to draft a constitution. That constitution served the state for much more than half a century.

While this country was the scene of the beginning of the War of the Revolution, it also had a speaking acquaintance with the man who, you may say, told them goodnight—that was Cornwallis. Cornwallis deserved better luck. He seems to have been a right decent sort of person, and the misfortune that he was cast for the villain in the play did not make him as bad as the character had to appear. No, Cornwallis was no personal friend of mine. I just speak from what they say about him.

Any way, he came up into these counties from Charleston and played tag with

General Gates and General Greene, and after he had concluded his argument with Greene up around Greensboro, it is said he passed down through this section to stop a while under a big tree over at Carthage which was to be pointed out to the curious in the days which have come since then. It is also said that over at Manley he sunk some of his cannons in the creek to hide them from the shifty gun artists over there who might grab them up and follow him if he left the guns where they could be observed. Cornwallis did not make a hit up through this country. He did a grand right and left from King's Mountain to Guilford, and at last, after looking at the thing from both sides, concluded that the meddling continentals were no friends of his, and he said farewell to them at Greensboro, or where Greensboro was to be in proper time, and he left to see how the fish were biting down around Wilmington.

That is where Cornwallis entered from the wrong side of the stage, for the chief conspirator down at Wilmington told him to take a clean shirt and some extra men and go up to the mouth of the James river in Virginia and give that section a good cleaning out. Cornwallis went up there, but he got in wrong. Instead of backing up to the North Carolina line, which he could cross easily when the time arrived to back track, he picked out a location between the James and the York rivers, apparently having a river on either side to keep off the colonial troops. He forgot that a river that keeps the other fellow away is hard to wade when you are in a hurry to get away from the other fellow.

That is where Cornwallis played the wrong system. He could not cross two rivers, nor either one of them, for the French had the bad taste to have warships in the rivers, and the Virginia colonel, Mr. Washington, had a lot of rude soldiers out on the peninsula, and all Cornwallis could do was to surrender, and stop the war. When Cornwallis laid down, King George concluded to take the count, and immediately the British foreign-affairs man sent for the insurance adjusters. I am not just sure which way Cornwallis went when he was up in the country above Pinehurst, and I have a small bet that he did not know himself half the time. But most of the small towns insist that they are on the line of route, and as we all get more or less comfort from looking with pride at our hand which John L. Sullivan shook one time, why I say let Cornwallis have a path on every road that leads through every county between Greensboro and Wilmington if the people say so. Like enough he hit most of them in one dodge or another. —BION H. BUTLER

N. B.—This is the sixth of Mr. Butler's stories.—ED.

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