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**"House in Horseshoe" Relic of Revolution**

Scene of Armed Conflict Between Alston and Fanning But Short Drive From So. Pines

(Continued from page three)  
"There is nothing remarkable in the History of Moore, nor was there a single circumstance during the Revolutionary War that could attract the attention of the Historian.—That they suffered their share of the common calamity incident to War—is certain, but that their distress arose from the depredation of Freebooters and Marauders, that had very little of the interest of either party at Heart and not from Located or Marching Armies is equally true.—The only event that could claim title to an Honor hitherto withheld, was an attack by the famous David Fanning on Colonel Phillip Alston in the House Occupied at present by Col. Benj. Williams on Deep River. In the year 1780 (writer's error) Fanning with from 60 to 70 men attempted to surprise Col. Alston in his own House who had from 25 to 30 men, Fanning advanced before day towards the House, Alstons Centinel fired and gave the Alarm—Fannings Men Sheltered themselves behind trees that were within Gunshot of the House, and in the locks of a High fence that enclosed the buildings—Alston had no other security but the thin shell of a frame House two Story High—the Action continued from a little before day until 10 o'clock, when an attempt was made to set the Building on fire—This attempt tho abortive, was succeeded by measures for another that threatened to be more Successful; which induced he besieged to offer Terms of capitulation, which were accepted, & the garrison surrendered.—This capitulation gave to the conquerors the arms of the Vanquished and to the latter their liberty on parole—Both Commanders behaved with great bravery, but unfortunately for Alston all his men were not Legitimate Sons of Mars, Some absolutely refused & did not pretend to fight, while the fighting of others consisted in pretence only—And it is worthy of remark that those who refused to fight being two in number were the only men Slain, 'tho Several others were Mortally Wounded of Alstons Numbers, Fanning had 3 Men Killed & 6 or 7 wounded—Alston the two already mentioned killed & 6 or 7 Wounded.—Fanning after the action Neither Suffered his men to plunder nor exult in their Success."  
To commemorate this action, the Alfred Moore chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, placed a marker in front of the house several years ago.  
**Moore County Created**  
In 1784 the General Assembly of the State created the County of Moore by the division of Cumberland County. Phillip Alston was named as one of five commissioners to erect a courthouse, prison, and stocks. At the first meeting of the court for the new county on the 16th, of August, 1784, eight Justices were present, of which number Alston was one. At this session he was made clerk of the court in which office he was succeeded by his son James for the latter part of the year 1785.  
As a member of the Senate 1785-1786, Phillip Alston was faced with a petition to have his seat declared vacant as he was under suspicion of murder. Presumably this was the case of Thomas Taylor, Alston's answer being that Taylor was rebellious and under arms. In 1787 he was suspended from his office as a justice of the Peace for the county.  
This is the last official record known to the writer. There is a maze of legend and tradition concerning the murder of George Glasscock in August, 1787. Friends of Glasscock, clerk of the court, accused Phillip Alston of the killing, and attempted to prove that it was committed by one of his slaves and at his instigation. Following his acquittal he is said to have sold his property and removed to Tennessee. Here again tradition is responsible for the story that he was there murdered by the same slave that killed Glasscock. There seems to be no means of ascertaining the year of his removal, or death, but in 1792, James Alston, then 23 years of age was granted letters of administration for Phillip Alston. The census of 1790, lists James as a resident of Moore county, single, owner of three slaves.  
The chain of title from Alston to Willcox through the various owners is definite, but the years of occupancy of the many families are uncertain. Phillip Alston, 1765? to 1788; James Alston, 1788—? Perkins, 1793—1802; Benjamin Williams, 1803—1814; Benjamin William Williams; Dr. Charles Chalmers, 1825? to 1865? Anderson Jones, 1865? to 1915; Farley, 1915 to 1917; George W. Will-

cox, 1917; John Willcox to the present. Perkins may have been an overseer for Governor Williams. Farley, a South Carolina planter made many changes during his brief occupancy, razing the brick kitchen with its great fireplace, abolishing the old guest chamber, known as the ghost room, and obliterating much of the shrubbery and old time cedars.

**Gov. Williams Tomb**  
Returning from the Alston house, recross Deep river to the direction marker for the Williams cemetery, then make a left turn on the sand-clay road and over a little bridge spanning Governor's creek, so named and marked in the very map used by Lord Cornwallis years before the settlement of Benjamin Williams on the stream, to another sign, "Tomb of Governor Williams 200 yards." From this point the old road to the cemetery is now but a rutted path impassable for wheeled traffic. Ascending a slight rise and just before reaching the woodland, to the right is the site of the first home of the Governor in Moore county, his residence from 1797 until his removal to the Alston house in 1803. In later years a part of the old home, of frame and clapboard construction was moved to the Harrington plantation and there used as a kitchen. All the land, 130 acres, on both sides of the road from the little bridge and beyond the cemetery to the river and now covered with second growth trees was then under cultivation.

Following the close of his term as a Member of Congress in 1795, Benjamin Williams removed to Moore county, purchasing several hundred acres of the Alston lands lying on the south side of Deep river, this including the present cemetery and first home site. In 1797, he added to his holdings the Alston house and surrounding acreage. From 1803 to his death in 1914 this was his home.  
This illustrious patriot, soldier, legislator and educator was born at Smithfield, N. C., January 1st, 1751, the son of John Williams and Ferebee Pugh Williams. His grandfather, William Williams, was a native of Wales; his grandmother Ferebee Savage Pugh, a granddaughter of Captain Thomas Savage of the Jamestown settlement. William Williams was accompanied by at least two brothers and there were many of the family name in Craven county, particularly the section set off as Johnson county in 1746. The census of 1790, listed  
(Please turn to page eight)

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