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**"House in The Horseshoe" Only  
Revolutionary Memorial Here**

**Scene of Armed Conflict Between Alston and Fanning and Home of Gov. Williams**

(Continued from page one)  
heads of families owned slaves. The property came into the possession of Colonel Williams in 1797. A letter of his bearing the date of July 25, 1803, not only describes the plantation, but will be of interest to all who visit the locality.

This letter to John Haywood, Treasurer of North Carolina, who had made inquiry in behalf of John Steele, a son of Elizabeth Maxwell Steele famous in Revolutionary annals for assistance rendered to General Greene during his retreat before Cornwallis, is in part as follows: "Deep River, carpenters, bricklayers, etc., making dispatch towards completion of my building. Will sell for \$30,000, 3,000 acres on both sides of Deep river, 1,900 acres in bend of Horseshoe on which is a plantation of 545 acres cleared, laid out by actual survey into division under good fences. A tolerable 2 story house, frames now ready to put up a wing of 24x20 at each end, and the frames are raised for a well constructed Granery and stable, also a weaving house 24x16, smoke house 14 feet cubical and a carriage house 16 feet square, also lumber and material ready for two more houses 24x16, a cotton house 60x20, 20 pitch log body, frame roof, 2 range of floor divided by partitions for reception and ginning of cotton, a new horse flat not yet launched, sufficiently large to take in a loaded wagon and team of the largest size.

**"Valuable Land"**

"The lands on the south side lie on the river from nearly opposite the lower end of the above described tract to the upper end of the same except one tract of about 600 acres which binds on the river and separates my land on which is a plantation of 130 acres on which I have an overseer with a few hands, a good overseer house and all necessary out-houses. This plantation is under excellent fences and shuts in or blocks up about 220 acres as valuable land as any on the river by which it cannot be used by any person but myself, the owner is ready to sell it when I say the word. About 100 acres of the 600 which separates my land as above is an excellent farm on which lives an aged man and respectable family, the old man holds only a life interest in the estate, the heir has offered it me for sale, and I have no doubt a purchase from the old man could be readily made, but the whole family I respect highly, and would prefer he live his days out; so that whenever these two tracts shall be added to mine I think it may justly be ranked among the most valuable estates in North Carolina. My plantation is remarked for its healthfulness, Phil Alston lived on it for about 25 years & raised a numerous family, losing only one child, a girl of about 13 years. Perkins with his white family, and about 70 or 80 negroes lived there more than 9 years without experiencing scarcely one days sickness. If the gentleman is disposed to purchase Negroes I will also sell him 50 or 60 in familys, stock, grain, etc. sufficient for him to settle the plantation with."

Philip Alston was the outstanding political and military figure in the territory now embraced in the county

**Gov. Williams' Tomb**



of Moore, not only during the years of the war when under the designation of Whig or Tory, neighbor fought neighbor, Englishman warred against Englishman and clansmen once again renewed their ancient feuds, but during the formative years of the new county when the fires of old animosities and grievances fared anew with political differences.

**Col. Alston's Record**

He is frequently cited in the North Carolina Colonial and State Records. In 1776, as 2nd Major of the Cumberland Militia regiment, and as a Representative to the Provincial Congress, also as a Colonel calling a militia muster at Henry Eagle's, on Bear Creek. In 1777, member of the House of Commons. In 1779, "Lt. Col. Alston of Cumberland on leave for State service, David Smith to be Colonel in his absence." Commissioner for the iron works. In 1780, September, Upper Cambellton, "Removal of Phil Alston to a considerable distance from Cumberland and the resignation of Lt. Col. Matthews recommended Major James Emmett to be Colonel."

On page 201, vol. 22, of the Records is Fanning's account of the raid on the Alston house:—"Headquarters, Wilmington, 25th Sept., 1781.—I then returned from the head of Little River, on my way to Cox's mill, where I was informed by two men, who informed me that the rebels had separated into two small parties, thinking I should never return from Wilmington; I passed on and got intelligence of Col. Alstin lying on the banks of Deep river with a party of 25 men. We lay all day and night following; and just as the day dawned we advanced in three divisions up to a house they had thrown themselves into. On our approach we fired upon the house, as I was determined to make an example of them for behaving in the manner they had done to one of my pilots, by name Kenneth Black. They returned our fire and the action continued upwards of three hours when after killing four or them and wounding all the rest they sent out a flag to surrender, Co. Alstin's lady begging their lives, On her solicitation, I concluded to grant her request, and after the capitulation I gave the following paroles to Col. Phillip Alsine and his men.—David Fanning, Col. Commanding Loyal Militia."

**Col. Fanning Attacks**

This action took place on Sunday, August 5th, 1781. A writer in 1810, describing Moore county embodied the following paragraph in his article, (Please turn to page seven)



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J. J. Harrington, President