

Shooting lasted less than 2 minutes



The shooting lasted less than two minutes. The casualties suffered — perhaps 50 to 75 men killed — represented less than two percent of the thirty-five hundred men involved. Yet the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge on February 27, 1776, had a significant effect upon the course of the American Revolution in North Carolina.

It was the first battle of the war in this state. Its site — in Pender County some 17 miles from Wilmington — is now a National Military Park.

The near-total defeat of the Tories at Moore's Creek put an end to Royal Governor Josiah Martin's hopes for keeping North Carolina loyal to the King. He fled the state shortly afterwards, ending royal rule here. For nearly five years thereafter, the new "state" would see no British soldiers.

The battle, fought at dawn, occurred when two thousand Whig troops under Colonels Alexander Lillington and Richard Caswell blocked the bridge to prevent the crossing of some fifteen hundred Tories under General Donald McDonald. The Tories — mostly Highland Scots recently arrived in this country — were marching to Wilmington to receive training and military supplies. They were scheduled to join forces with an expected British invasion fleet.



ED SMITH

The Whigs had removed the planks for the bridge and greased the remaining log stringers, but the kilted Scots — mostly armed with broadswords and courage only — attempted to cross under fire. A one-sided slaughter ensued, ending later in the capture of most of the Tories and the collapse of British hopes in North Carolina.

As a coincidence, Flora MacDonald, the patron saint of these Highland Scots, also died during this week in history, on March 5, 1790, back in her native Scotland.

Flora, her husband Allen and five of their seven children had joined the flood of Scottish immigrants to America in 1774, settling on a plantation near Cross Creek (Fayetteville).

Ironically, most of these Scots were themselves survivors of an unsuccessful rebellion against British rule. They had been pardoned and allowed to emigrate to America after taking Oaths of Allegiance to the Crown. When the Revolution began here, most felt obligated to side with the King. Before they marched off to join the British forces, Flora MacDonald delivered a rousing speech in Gaelic, dressed in her tartan, with a fiery cross burning in the background. Her

husband Allen and oldest son would be captured at Moore's Creek. Flora had become famous for arranging the escape of Scottish Prince Charles after the collapse of their rebellion in 1746. Her funeral in 1790 was attended by thousands of admiring countrymen.

In late February and early March of 1826, the aged Marquis de Lafayette toured North Carolina on his return visit to the United States. On March 4-5 he stopped in Fayetteville (named in his honor in 1788) staying overnight at the home of Duncan McRae on the site of the present courthouse.

On March 1, 1682, one George Durant purchased land (thenceforth to be known as Durant's Neck) from the Indians. This is the oldest known recorded deed in the state's history.

EDITORIALS & OPINIONS

Page 4A Thursday, March 3, 1977

Community service officer is important

The 1977-78 Community Development Block Grants application, reviewed Monday night, is most impressive with 14 out of 15 proposals being included.

And the 15th is now being reviewed for possible inclusion under the \$1,040,000 funding for the third year of the CD program.

The Mirror-Herald hopes this program will be declared eligible by the area director of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) because it presents a clear image of the type of programming needed to deal directly with any community's most vital resource — its citizens.

The proposal was submitted by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association under the title of a Community Service Officer. That title would be the one attached to the single new employee who would coordinate all of the available assistance agencies and determine what areas of assistance need implementation.

Every community has its hardship cases and the project, as outlined, would be set up to handle the emergencies immediately. The program would also provide tools (other volunteer experts) that would work to determine the cause for the emergency and try to root it out.

The city commissioners have a little less than 30 days to amend the CD applications to include the Community Service Officer project should the HUD director rule it is eligible. That will mean other projects will have to be cut budget-wise a bit to take care of the new budget application. But, this is the least that can be done willingly because the Community Service Officer project is one of the most worthwhile proposals to aid this community to come across the boards in sometime.

And even if the HUD director says "sorry," there should still be a concentrated effort made within the community to create the program somehow.

READER DIALOGUE

Give us your youth

To the editor,

The gold record being played says give us your youth and we will control the world. Give us their minds and we will change the course of history.

Without the minds of our youth we will utterly fall and our moral and political enemies are well aware of this.

The Communist cry continues, permit us to fill the minds of your youth with dissent against all moral values. Permit us to use

every method of dirty literature as to blind their minds to the truth.

Permit us the use of your schools and churches as classrooms to meet our goal of world dominion.

These things are only a few of the Communist methods to gain their own goals.

Frightening? Of course it is and it can come true if we do not wake up.

EVERETTE PEARSON
Kings Mountain

Make your feelings known

To the editor,

Thank you for the two new features in the Mirror-Herald, "Citizens View" and "Sen. Jesse Helms."

Sen. Helms writes that he is totally opposed to the Congressional pay raise. He states that the pay raise will be automatic if Congress does not act to prevent it. Leadership of the Senate prevented a vote thus far, but Sen. Helms says a vote on the pay raise will be taken sooner or later.

Many people are complaining about the proposed pay raise for Congress and other high level bureaucrats.

As I read Sen. Helms' column I was reminded of what our President has said, that we (the people) are the government.

That means Congress is there to serve us.

Here is how citizens can voice their approval or disapproval. Call Western Union's toll free number (1-800-287-2241) and give the operator your name, address and phone number. Say you wish to send a personal opinion message to Sen. Jesse Helms, Washington, D. C., then give your message. The charge is \$2 for 15 words (to any elected official). A sample message might read: "We are against the Congressional pay raise."

Your name is not considered in the 15 word message. I have heard one message counts for 150,000 voices of voters.
MRS. JOAN OWENS
Bessemer City

ERA down the tubes, until...

Tuesday the North Carolina Senate defeated the controversial Equal Rights Amendment proposal to rest 26 to 24.

Wonder if those two votes that defeated the amendment can be laid on Sen. Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain and Sen. Marshall Rauch of Gastonia?

From their stance on ERA all down the line it's doubtful that either one of these men would care very much if you did (a) blame them, or (b) congratulate them.

Sen. Harris introduced a bill, which went to the constitutional committee, asking for a statewide referendum on ERA. Let the people in the state decide whether or not they want the amendment in effect.

But Tuesday's action in Raleigh wiped out the ERA proposal and the referendum idea at least until after January 1, 1978.

Personally, I don't know whether ERA is a good idea or not. I don't even know if it is necessary. According to former U. S. Senator Sam Ervin ERA is totally unnecessary because equal rights are guaranteed under the U. S. Constitution. He

should know since he is one of America's foremost authorities on that document.

On the lighter side of the ERA discussion men have said, "Pass it, pass it! Ay-God, then women will be brought down to the same level as men!"

This attitude, although spoken in jest, seems to be the very thing that the ERA supporters want. They claim they don't want to be put up on pedestals and they don't want to be thought of as weak and unable to hold the same jobs as men or places in community life as men. And they do deserve the same pay for the same job as men.

I agree with this view. Women should be considered for whatever roles, and at fair wages, in which they are qualified, the same as men.

But I do get the idea the ERA movement is so unpopular among men and women because they fear it will take the romance out of man-woman relationships. After all, we've been raised (us well-past 80) on a steady diet of songs, movies and books built on strong romantic imagery.

Maybe when the current young people become the leaders things will change. After all, the thinking is greatly changed over the past 10 to 15 years.

By now many of KM's citizens are aware that a couple of alleged counterfeiters have been arrested and a printing press confiscated in the historical city. And by The Secret Service, no less. And secret it is.



TOM MCINTYRE

One evening the local police received a call that a "strange vehicle" was observed on a certain city street. A patrolman was dispatched to check it out.

Sure enough the patrolman found the "strange vehicle" with a couple of occupants. When the officer approached the car the occupants became agitated.

"Get outta here or you'll blow our operation," an occupant told the officer. "I ain't gonn' nowhere until you men show me some identification and explain what you're doin' here," the officer answered.

The occupants flashed their credentials and the officer, satisfied, went on his way. Chief Earl Lloyd heard from the Secret Service about the incident, but had to defend his officer.

"You said not to alert the local department about your operation, and I didn't," the chief explained. "And when our men receive a citizen's call they respond."



The Poet's Corner

THE WICKED ONES

The wicked ones won't give to the poor
Instead they will sell on easy terms.
They won't let you drink from their cup,
They are afraid of catching germs.

The wicked ones are out to beat the poor
While singing their sad, sad song.
Not songs of a thorny crown Christ wore,
But ones of somebody done me wrong.

They try to be happy with their money,
As they pay on a fine home and car.
And by managing cash close enough,
They have some left to take to a bar.

If only they knew what the Saints do,
And what the real blessings are.
For one day wicked ones must rue,
While spending eternity in Satan's fire.

MACK BRADSHAW

SHIPWRECKED

I was out on the sea as if in a boat
The waves of the sea dashed high
My boat capsized, no more would it float
I was so sure I would die.

Then on the debris I drifted around
No hope at all could I see.
But to my surprise a big ship came by
And the good Captain rescued me.

I'll never forget how happy I was
When He took me aboard with Him.
Because for me all hope was gone
And chances of rescue were dim.

True, it was not on a natural sea
But on the sea of life
And it was Jesus the Captain who came
He came to my rescue that night.

I could have resisted and sank in the waves
When He reached out for me.
But in my despair, I welcomed His hand
And so thankful forever I'll be.

My brother, if you are lost on life's sea
The big ship is passing by
Jesus, the Captain is reaching for you
Accept him, O, why will you die?

Yes, the Dear Saviour is waiting in love
He's waiting with outstretched hand
If you will only trust in Him,
He will take you to that peaceful land.

CALVIN WRIGHT

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