#### Historical Sketches of Wilkes County of solitude. Health shrank not battle of King's Mountain: from him, for Donard's Ford, Tryon of Published by John Crouch in 1902

(Continued from page six) the Indians became so much attached to him that they refused to part with him; and after leaving at Detroit the other prisoners, they returned with Boone to Chili Cothe. He was adopted as one of the tribe and pretended to be very fond of his new father and mother, and take great interest in their sports and hunting. His plan of escape was hurried by an alarming circumstance; while meditating upon it he was astonished to see an assemblage of four hundred warriors at Chili Cothe. An attack on Boonesboro was planned. On the 16th of June he escaped and reached Boonesboro on the 20th a distance of one hundred and sixty miles, during which he ate but one meal. He found the fort in bad condition. and set all hands about to repair it. The Indians, finding that he had escaped, postponed the at-

On the 1st of August, with nineteen men. Boone sets out to attack an Indian town called Paint Creek, on the Sciota. Within four miles of the fort they met forty Indians on their way to attack them. A desperate fight ensues, in which Boone conquered, without the loss of a man. n the 8th of August the larg-

est force that they ever had appear before Boonesboro orders it to surrender. The assailants were our hundred and forty-four Indians and eleven Frenchmen, commanded by Captain Duquesne. Boone requested a parley of three days during which he made every preparation for an active and vigorous defense.

On the 9th Boone informs the would defend the fort as long as a man could raise a rifle."

treaty is agreed to. Boone with too crowded, he wanted more elsign the document. He is inform- 1813, when he lost his wife; the Indian custom from time immem- trials and troubles exchanged this hands of one white man. This he severest blow Boone received. He reluctantly consented to, and the left Missouri and came to his son, each white man they endeavored lived, employing his leisure with to hold him fast. Boone feels the his favorite rifle and trapping is a beautiful waterfall which sinewy grasp of two athletic Indians, and his companions are be- ly and resignedly breathed his trayed into a like perilous condi- last, in the eighty-fourth year of tion. Now arose the mighty strug- his age, surrounded by affection gle for liberty and for life.

thy own. No Maiden arm is round thee

thrown: That desperate grasp thy frame would feel.

Through bars of brass and triple steel." Fortunate favors at this mo- to give their light.

ent of peril her gallant son; the The Character of Boone is so Boone and his men escape to the the immortal Byron:

His name memor of this chilalric exploit, and the name of Boone will live as long as the Kentucky river rolls its troubled tribute to the "Great Father of Waters;" and when the marble in our National Capitol, which commemorates Crime came not near him-she is issued by Major Ferguson to the this deed, shall have crumbled to

its original elements.

The Indians, after an unsuccessful attack, raised the selge. after a loss of several killed and wounded.

During the absence of Colonel Boone in captivity among the Shawnees, his wife, thinking her husband was killed, returned with her family to her father's, on the Yadkin in North Carolina, Boone came to North Carolina after

He returned with them in about wo years to Boonesboro, during which time many battles had been lost and won.

As he and his brother were returning from the Salt Licks, they were attacked by the Indians, his brother was killed by a shot from the Indians. Boone was not hurt and only escaped by rapid flight, killing the dog the Indians had sent on his trail.

Such was the life Boone led until the defeat of the Indians by Wayne (1792) introduced peace and quiet in this dark and dangerous country.

Between this time and the time (1792) the new territory came into the Union. Virginia had enacted so many laws, which Boone in the simplicity of his nature had failed to comply with, or his business was done so loosely, that the very land he had bought and paid for, in the sacrifices of himself and the blood of his son and his brother was wrested from him. How sad a commentary upon human nature. How mournfully true the Latin adage, "home hom ini lupus" (man is a wolf to man).

In 1798 he shoulders his rifle and goes to the wilds of Missouri. French commander that "he Here was a country as wild and unclaimed as his heart desired. The republic was that of the for-The wily Frenchman, knowing est, and the rifle and the hunter; the prowess of his opponent, and Boone was commander-inseeks to effect by stratagem what chief. He never sighed for what he dares not attempt by arms. A was lost. He said Kentucky was the required number go forth to bow-room. Here he lived until ed, after signing, that it was an faithful companion of all his orial for two Indians to shake the for a brighter world. This was the beavers until 1818 when he calmand love. It was stated in the pap-"Now gallant Boone! now hold ers at the time of his death that he was found dead at a stand, watching for a deer with his rifle sprung and raised ready to fire. In the Indian idea he had gone to hunting ground of the warrior above, where his spirit would be happy when the stars would cease

knife of Boone finds a bloody peculiar that it marks the age in sheath in one of his opponents; which he lived; and his name has The forces assembled at Watauga. the other is thrown down, and been celebrated in the verses of -Of All Men-

> never die. The Who pass for in life and death Maj. Ferguson. most lucky,

Of the great names which in our faces stare.

of Kentucky.

not the child

Her home is in the rarely trodden wild.

And tall and strong and swift on foot were they,

Beyond the dwarfing city's pale abortions,

Because their thoughts had never been the prey Of care or gain; the green

woods were their portion; No sinking spirits told them they grew gray,

No fashions made them apez of her distortions; Simple they were, not savage;

and their rifles, Though very true, were not yet used for trifles.

Motion was their days, rest in

their slumbers, And cheerfulness the handmaid

of their toils; Nor yet too many, nor too few

their numbers; Corruption could not make their hearts her soil;

The last which stings, the splendor which encumbers, With the iree foresters divide no spoil;

Serene, not sullen, even the solitudes Of this unsighing people of the

woods. In North Carolina was Boone reared. Here his youthful days were spent; and here that bold spirit was trained, which so fearlessly encountered the perils through which he passed in after life. His fame is a part of her property, and she has inscribed his name on a town (Boone) in the region where his youth was spent.

the National Portrait Gallery, by W. A. C., for the leading facts

and dates in the life of Boone. It was on a farm near Holman's ford that Boone's early life was spent. There are objects still existing in that locality which were associated with him in his hunting expeditions and travels. There are trees standing to this day bearing marks which indicate that Brushy mountains, near Boomer, is so called because it was in Boone's route across the mountain on his hunting expeditions. on a tributary of Warrior creek, owes its name--Boone's Fallsto this great hunter.

#### KING'S MOUNTAIN

The battle of King's Mountain is very closely connected with the history of Wilkes County. Nearly, or probably more than, half the American soldiers, engaged in this famous battle for freedom of the American people were from Wilkes county, as her boundary lines were at that time. Wilkes furnished three distinguished leaders for this battle-Col. Benjamin J. Cleveland, Col. John Sevier and General Isaac Shelby.

Daniel Boone, backswoodman the men in the British ranks at King's Mountain were 'Tories.

Following is a circular letter Tories just seven days before the

Donard's Ford, Tryon Co.,

Oct. 1, 1786. Gentlemen! Unless you wish to Don Juan, Canto VII. LVI be cut up by an inundation of murdering the unarmed son bedered, and to see your wives and in the natural world. daughters, in four days, abused by the dregs of mankind—in one by an ensiform cartilage from the fight. The showman's partner been completed and was in quest short, if you wish or desire to the side. The blood vessels and came to his aid, armed with of a principal. Maj. Jas. H. Foote live and bear the name of men, nerves of each communicated, sticks, singletrees and such other recommended Mr. Spainhour to grasp your arms in a moment and run to camp.

The backwater men have crossed the mountains; McDowell. Hampton, Shelby and Cleveland at the same. Both died on the rade. A desperate battle followed. are at their head, so that you will have to depend upon. If you intervening between their deaths. choose to be p-d upon for ever and ever by a set of mongrels, say so at once, and let your women turn their backs upon you and look out for real men to protect them.

PAT FERGUSON. Maj. 71st Regiment.

Ferguson was expecting an attack from the Americans and directed a letter to Lord Cornwall at Charlotte, soliciting aid. At ion of the army were at Gilbert his march to King's Mountain. He camped the first night at Cowpens (soon to become famous for the success of our arms over Tarleton, Jan. 17, 1781). On the 5th of October he crossed Broad river at Deep Ferry and marched sixteen miles; on the 6th he marched up the ridge road, until I am indebted to a sketch in he came to a right hand fork across King's creek and through a gap towards Yorkville, about fourteen miles; and on the summit of King's Mountain he encamped. Here he declared was "a place where God Almighty could not drive him from."

About 3 o'clock on the 7th of October, 1789, after being in the saddle for thirty hours, without rest, and drenched by a heavy proached King's Mountain.

This mountain is in Cleveland county, on the borders of North and South Carolina; it extends East and West and on the summit moment the savages took hold of Major Nathan Boone, where he A short distance from this gap, is a plateau about five hundred yards long and sixty or seventy broad. On the summit was Ferguson posted. The Americans divided into three wings. The right wing was under the command of McDowell, Sevier and Winston; Campbell and Shelby commanded the center, while the left wing was under the command of Cleveland and Williams. The plan of battle was to surround the mountain and attack each side simultaneously. The center commenced the attack and marched boldly up the mountain. The Eattle here was fierce, furious and bloody. The center gave way, but rallied, and reinforced by Campbell's regwards the latter part of the action the enemy made a furious onset from the eastern summit and drove the Americans to the foot; there they rallied and in close column returned to the men in the men iment, returned to the charge. Toemy. They gained the summit and drove the enemy before them to the western end, where Cleveland and Williams had been contending with another part of their line. Campbell now reached the summit and poured in on the enemy a deadly fire. The brave Ferguson, like a lion at bay, turned on these new adversaries and advanced with fixed bayonet. They gave way for the moment, and rallied under their gallant leaders to the attack. "The whole mountain was covered with smoke and seemed to thunder." Attacked on all sides, the circle becoming less and less, Ferguson in a desperate move endeavored to break through the American lines, and was shot dead in the attempt. This decided the day. The British flag was lowered, and a white flag raised for quarters. One hundred and fifty of the enemy, including their command-

> can authority restored, were the fruits of this victory. This was the turning point of the fortunes of America. This decisive blow prostrated the Brittish power for the time, vanquished the Tory influence, and encouraged the hopes of the pa-

er, lay dead on the field, 810 wounded and prisoners. 1500

stands of arms, and the Ameri-

Lord Cornwallis left Charlotte and fell back to Winnsboro, deeming any proximity to such fearless men unsafe for the main army, nor did he advance until reinforced by General Leslie with troops from the north.

The total loss on the American side was twenty-eight killed and sixty wounded. THE SIAMESE TWINS

The celebrated Siamese Twins, Chang and Eng, after traveling over all the world and seeing the advantages and disadvantages of every country, chose the quiet of glens of Wilkes as the loveliest apot for retirement and

at Maklong, Siam, and died in

office, about the year 1880. In 1829 they left their connty for America, and since they barbarian, who have begun by have traveled over the whole of trouble arose. George Johnson this continent, England, France wards lopped off his arms, and admiration of the crowd, and the charge him about three times the who by their shocking cruelty investigations of the scientific usual price in the stores at that and irregularities, give the best Sir Ashley Cooper, of London, Dr. time, when finally Johnson told proof of their cowardice and want Samuel L. Mitchell, of New York, him to take the candy and go to of discipline; I say if you wish and others, who have reported h-1 with it. This insulted the born in Burke county in 1885, to be pinioned, robbed and mur- upon this singular phenomemon showman who in turn insulted and came to Wilkes county is

> They were united together as There seemed to be a perfect sympathy, for when one was sick so hands on. Johnson's friends came He remained in this position unwas the other. They went to sleep to his aid about as fast as the til the outbreaking of the war, at the same moment, and woke showmen to the aid of their com- when he enlisted in Company B. same day, only a few moments

to separate the twins but the son, Andy Porter, "Bill" Transcientific doctors decided that sou, Wesley Nicholls, Peter Johnsuch an operation would terminate their lives.

They were wealthy, well settlhad interesting families around no one killed. them. They married twin sisters named Yates, sisters of Austin the fight and he soon had the of ascendency among the schools and Jesse Yates, late of this participators under arrest and county. Ex-County Commissioner, under guard. After the showmen not been cut short by the war it this time Ferguson and his divis- Robert Yates, who lives near who had engaged in the fight had Boomer is a nephew of the wives been released, a party who were town, from which place he began of the Siamese Twins. Several of absent with the horses during the their descendants yet live in Sur- fight, came up. They were attackry county and they have adopted ed by the Wilkes party, who by the name Bunker as their sur- this time had procured sticks, name. The house now owned and axes, and other deadly weapons, occupied by Ambros Wiles was and were prepared to do some fabuilt by the Siamese Twins, and tal execution. The showmen told they lived and died there.

was sober and patient; the other intemperate and irritable. It is About that time Sheriff Staley apsaid that they frequently fell out peared on the scene and informments—whether they should or who had engaged in the fight old time activity and progress. should not go somewhere and were under arrest; then the citisometimes fought like dogs. In zens calmed down and another 1870 Chang was stricken with bloody fight was averted. paralysis from which he died a few years later. In a short time- were marched to the court house probably about 30 minutes-England a preliminary trial was held followed him to the great beyond. before Dr. R. F. Hackett, who was persons that ever lived in the time. The trial lasted until about Jerome Dowd's sketch of Col They were the most interesting county. In the natural history of midnight when the whole party Cowles in "Sketches of Prominent the world there is not another case like them.

THE SHOW FIGHT

1860, in Wilkesboro, occurred courthouse, under guard, until one of the most remarkable morning when, after the showmen this sketch, was born at Hamptonfights in the history of the counhad paid him \$500., Gen. James ville, in Yadkin county, April 22, ty. Robinson's show had pitched B. Gordon stood surety for their 1840, and spent his youth in his their tents in the vale on the appearance at court. They never father's store and on his farm.

process the place where the new dismlated upon paym The show people had a stand etc. It was at this stand that the transaction. went up to the stand to buy some

engaged in the fight may be men-A time or two was appointed tioned the following; Ellis Anderson, Jones Transou, and others.

weapons as they could get their

Such weapons were used as were most convenient and several the 17th day of October, 1861. ed, and both happily married and on each side were badly hurt, but

Sheriff Staley was informed of them they knew nothing of the its place and the community long trouble and were not concerned ance, character and strength. One with it, but the enraged citizens fluence. Recently, however, the were not disposed to hear them. -generally about their move ed the citizens that the showmen

The showmen under arrest Between the years of 1855 and them, so they were kept in the boro Chronicle" Jan. 8, 1902.) north side of Main street, just appeared and finally the case was

Wilkes county, near Hays post- Methodist church now stands, cost by Gordon. The cost is the case amounted to about \$120., so

After the ones engaged in the fight were arrested the show profore the aged father, and after, and other countries, exciting the candy; the showman wanted to ceeded and a large crowd will-

nessed the exhibit. JAMES HENRY SPAINHOUR

By Frank B. Hendren James Henry Spainhour was Johnson, who was something of 1858. New Hope Academy in afighter, and he at once began Lewis Fork township, had just the position and he was elected. Capt. Stokes, which company was Among Johnson's friends who attached to the First Regiment N. C. Volunteers. Mr. Spainhour being a licensed minister of the Baptist church, was appointed Chaplain of this Regiment in which capacity he served until his death at Fredericksburg, on

It was under Prof. Spainhour's principalship, that New Hope Academy enjoyed its brief period of this county and had its career would doubtless become one of the leading institutions in the western part of the state. It was located in what was justly considered at that time the most progressive community in the county. The Academy was burned during the war and after that unhappy struggle still-houses took suffered from their blighting incommunity, which contained some of the best people in the county, is regaining some of its

The late Maj. H. Bingham, as well, as many of the leading citizens of this county, of the older class received their education at New Hope Academy.

COL. W. H. H. COWLES

(For the leading facts in this a Justice of the Peace at that sketch the author is indebted to was bound to court. The showmen Living North Carolinians," and to did not want to go to jail and the the sketch by W. W. Barber, jail was not sufficient to hold which appeared in "The Wilkes-

Colonel Cowles, the subject of (Continued on page eight)

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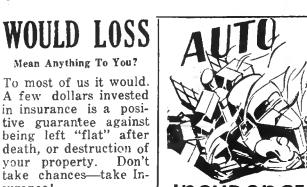


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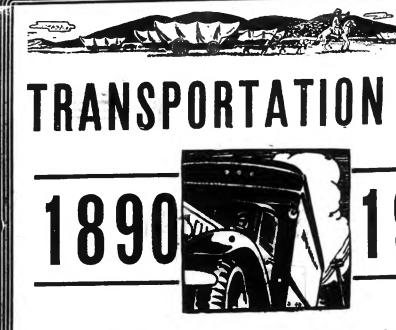
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