

Historical Sketches of Wilkes County 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...

On the 1st of August, with nineteen men, Boone sets out to attack an Indian town called Paint Creek...

On the 8th of August the largest force that they ever had appear before Boonesboro orders it to surrender...

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

The wily Frenchman, knowing the prowess of his opponent, seeks to effect by stratagem what he dares not attempt by arms...

No Maiden arm is round thee thrown; That desperate grasp thy frame would feel...

His name can never die. The memory of this chivalric exploit, and the name of Boone will live as long as the Kentucky river rolls its troubled tribute to the "Great Father of Waters;"

is original elements.
The Indians, after an unsuccessful attack, raised the siege, 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.

He returned with them in about two 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...

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The Character of Boone is so peculiar that it marks the age in which he lived; and his name has been celebrated in the verses of the immortal Byron:
—Of All Men—
Who pass for life and death most lucky,
Of the great names which in our faces stare.
Is Daniel Boone, backwoodsman of Kentucky.

Crime came not near him—she is not the child

Of solitude. Health shrank not from him, for Her home is in the rarely trodden wild.
Don Juan, Canto VII, LVI

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,

Motion was their days, rest in their slumbers, And cheerfulness the handmaid of their toils;

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.

I am indebted to a sketch in 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.

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Gentlemen! Unless you wish to be cut up by an inundation of barbarian, who have begun by murdering the unarmed son before the aged father, and afterwards looted off his arms, and who by their shocking cruelty and irregularities, give the best proof of their cowardice and want of discipline; I say if you wish to be pinioned, robbed and murdered, and to see your wives and daughters, in four days, abused by the dregs of mankind—in short, if you wish or desire to live and bear the name of men, grasp your arms in a moment and run to camp.

They were united together as one by an ensnoring cartilage from the side. The blood vessels and nerves of each communicated. There seemed to be a perfect sympathy, for when one was sick so was the other. They went to sleep at the same moment, and woke at the same.

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 this time Ferguson and his division of the army were at Gilbert town, from which place he began his march to 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 is a plateau about five hundred yards long and sixty or seventy broad.

The center gave way, but rallied, and reinforced by Campbell's regiment, returned to the charge. Towards 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 attack, and in turn drove the enemy. 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.

At that time the Western part of North Carolina was a stronghold for the Tories and many of the men in the British ranks at King's Mountain were Tories. Following is a circular letter issued by Major Ferguson to the Tories just seven days before the

at Maklong, Siam, and died in Wilkes county, near Hay's post-office, about the year 1850. In 1829 they left their county for America, and since they have traveled over the whole of this continent, England, France and other countries, exciting the admiration of the crowd, and the investigations of the scientific Sir Ashley Cooper, of London, Dr. Samuel L. Mitchell, of New York, and others, who have reported upon this singular phenomenon in the natural world.

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They differed widely in appearance, character and strength. One was sober and patient; the other intemperate and irritable. It is said that they frequently fell out—generally about their movements—whether they should or should not go somewhere—and sometimes fought like dogs. In 1870 Chang was stricken with paralysis from which he died a few years later.

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 glens of Wilkes as the loveliest spot for retirement and repose. They were born in May, 1811.

dismissed upon payment of the cost by Gordon. The cost in the case amounted to about \$120., so Gordon cleared about \$370 in the transaction.

After the ones engaged in the fight were arrested the show proceeded and a large crowd witnessed the exhibit.
JAMES HENRY SPAINHOUR
By Frank B. Hendren
James Henry Spainhour was born in Burke county in 1838, and came to Wilkes county in 1858. New Hope Academy in Lewis Fork township, had just been completed and was in quest of a principal. Maj. Jas. H. Foote recommended Mr. Spainhour to the position and he was elected.

It was under Prof. Spainhour's principalship, that New Hope Academy enjoyed its brief period of ascendancy among the schools of this county and had its career not been cut short by the war it would doubtless become one of the leading institutions in the western part of the state.

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 sketch the author is indebted to Jerome Dowd's sketch of Col. Cowles in "Sketches of Prominent Living North Carolinians," and to the sketch by W. W. Barber, which appeared in "The Wilkesboro Chronicle" Jan. 8, 1902.)

Colonel Cowles, the subject of this sketch, was born at Hamptonville, in Yadkin county, April 22, 1840, and spent his youth in his father's store and on his farm.

(Continued on page eight)

THE SHOW FIGHT
Between the years of 1855 and 1860, in Wilkesboro, occurred one of the most remarkable fights in the history of the county. Robison's show had pitched their tents in the vale on the north side of Main street, just

opposite the place where the new Methodist church now stands. The show people had a stand where they sold candy, lemonade, etc. It was at this stand that the trouble arose. George Johnson went up to the stand to buy some candy; the showman wanted to charge him about three times the usual price in the stores at that time, when finally Johnson told him to take the candy and go to h—l with it. This insulted the showman who in turn insulted Johnson, who was something of a fighter, and he at once began the fight. The showman's partner came to his aid, armed with sticks, singletrees and such other weapons as they could get their hands on. Johnson's friends came to his aid about as fast as the showmen to the aid of their comrade. A desperate battle followed.

Among Johnson's friends who engaged in the fight may be mentioned the following: Ellis Anderson, Andy Porter, "Bill" Transou, Wesley Nicholls, Peter Johnson, Jones Transou, and others. Such weapons were used as were most convenient and several on each side were badly hurt, but no one killed.

Sheriff Staley was informed of the fight and he soon had the participants under arrest and under guard. After the showmen who had engaged in the fight had been released, a party who were absent with the horses during the fight, came up. They were attacked by the Wilkes party, who by this time had procured sticks, axes, and other deadly weapons, and were prepared to do some fatal execution. The showmen told them they knew nothing of the trouble and were not concerned with it, but the enraged citizens were not disposed to hear them. About that time Sheriff Staley appeared on the scene and informed the citizens that the showmen who had engaged in the fight were under arrest; then the citizens calmed down and another bloody fight was averted.



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