

The State's Voice

A PAPER FOR THINKING PEOPLE

VOL. I.

DUNN, N. C., SEPTEMBER 1, 1933.

NUMBER 16

Paschal Denies Regulators Were Tories

Below is an article, or communication, from Dr. Geo. W. Paschal, in which a protest is made against the Voice's grouping most of the Regulators who remained in the Alamance section as Tories during the Revolution. As I have already ascribed to Doctor Paschal the highest standing among North Carolina historians, I can only submit gracefully to his correction. Capt Ashe and other historians stand similarly corrected, unless they can bring authority for the usual classification.

Doctor Paschal not only knows North Carolina history in general, but being reared in the Regulator section must have made even a more intense study of the subject at issue than most of the North Carolina historical subjects. Just as the writer has always been interested in Moore's Creek Bridge history because of the fact that ancestors lived near the battle ground, Dr. Paschal has been similarly interested in the history of the Regulation. I could not pretend to match my knowledge of the matter with his. Accordingly, I here attach his communication with the assurance that it deserves the respectful consideration of the historically-minded of the state.

However, as said in the the article criticised, the Regulators could not much have been blamed if they had failed to cast in their lot with the Revolutionary leaders who had formerly harassed them under the Tryon regime, just as the Highlanders, oath-bound after Culloden, are not to be blamed for mustering under the royal banner. Below is Dr. Paschal's article: "My dear Peterson:

I have read your article in the last issue of the State's Voice in which you state that Regulators became Tories. A few Regulators became Tories, as a few of almost every other class except in Franklin and Warren became Tories, but I should like to see any evidence that would show that the Regulators as a class became Tories. Captain Ashe indeed says time and again that the Regulators became Tories, repeating the stories which the men of the Wilmington section used in their efforts to excuse themselves for having shot the Regulators down on the field of Alamance and afterwards trampling down their fields of wheat and clover and burning their houses and taking their corn and wheat and cattle, proving vandals as bad as ever plundered enemy cities in Europe. But neither Captain Ashe nor any one else has given any evidence to show that the Regulators as a class or any great number of them became Tories.

They show indeed that the Regulators appreciated the justice that Governor Josiah Martin, after investigation, accorded them—a something that some of the Cape Fear writers of to-day are not willing to accord them. So long as the Regulators thought the issue was between Martin and the men who had followed Tryon and obeyed his orders to burn their fields they showed that they were friends of Martin. Before the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge a few of them, about fifty from Chatham County, possibly a hundred from Guilford, none from Orange, assembled in Moore County and some of them marched to Fayetteville; but the greater number returned home when they found that the fight was to be not to protect Martin but to shoot down Patriots. It is said that some hundred or two Regulators were in the vicinity when the battle was fought at Moore's Creek, but probably the greater number of these had never seen Alamance and were from Anson County. It was the Scotch Highlanders who fought for the King at Moore's Creek.

Cornwallis Disappointed

After this where is there any evidence that any great number of the Regulators were anything else but Patriots? Governor Martin kept telling Cornwallis that the Regulators were only waiting for Cornwallis and Martin to come to their section to give them their support. But in this Martin was mistaken. Cornwallis says that he did not get a hundred recruits in all the Regulator Country. There were many more Tories in the western part of the State, those who fought their neighbors at Ramsaur's Mill and at King's Mountain, but they were not Regulators. Then again consider the families of Chatham which was the center of the Regulator movement. The Pyles and the Dowds and part of the Edwardses, and some of the Darks and Peopleses were Tories. But

all my ancestors were both Regulators and Whigs, their names appearing on the Regulator lists found in the Colonial Records. They were the Brays and the Welshes. Then there were the Joneses, the Dorsetts, the Hackneys, the Cheeks, the Alstons, the Teagues, the Headens, the Brookses, the Wilcoxes who can be shown to be both Regulators and Patriots. In the Revolutionary War the Ore Hill mines and furnaces were used to make arms for the Patriots. Does anybody suppose that such a plant could have been maintained in a Tory district? Tradition is uniform that only the riff-raff were Tories; the great numbers of the people who had been Regulators, almost to a man, were also Patriots, if there is any reliance to be placed on tradition. Here is another proof: The landholders of Chatham County generally kept their lands undisturbed after the war; my ancestors, one of them a man who sued Fanning in the Hillsboro Court, were getting grants of lands during the period of the war from the State government.

Governor Martin Undeceived

In my view it is pure maligning the Regulators to say that they became Tories; Caruthers and other

early writers on our North Carolina history had a different view; it is only the apologists for the men who helped Tryon to hang and quarter and draw men like Pugh and Merritt who in recent years accept the word of Martin that the Regulators were loyalists; even Martin knew better before he had got back to Wilmington after the battle of Guilford Court-House.

David Fanning was a Tory but he was not a Regulator. He was hardly from the Regulator country, his home being in the part of Moore or Randolph near High Falls, and not in Chatham County as it is now. Fanning always regarded Chatham county as Whig territory.

But if you have any evidence that the Regulators were Tories I should like to see it. Cornwallis thought Martin had fooled him in saying that they were.

I enjoyed very much your account of Elizabethtown. In fact, I enjoy all you write.

Truly yours,

G. W. PASCHAL.

Wake Forest, August 25.

The Wootens Honor Ancestor

Two weeks ago I was accosted in Clarkton by ladies in a car and asked if the unveiling of the Shadrach Wooten monument was taking place in Clarkton that day. I informed them that I did not know, but would be glad to find out. Inquiry discovered the location as Western Prong Baptist church, seven miles out, just across the Bladen-Columbus line.

The ladies and the young man driving were Wootens, hailing from Georgia. They had come from Kingston that day, but had been misdirected and were late. I was urged to go too and followed. But we had missed the big dinner and the fine paper read by Mrs. J. A. Brown, herself not of Wooten descent but acquainted with many of the family, both in Columbus and in Lenoir and other sections. Having asked Dr. J. Y. Joyner, present as one of the distinguished descendants of Shadrach Wooten, whose monument was unveiled in the churchyard that day, for some of the leading points in the family history, I was referred to Mrs. Brown, who loaned me her manuscript, from which the following information and in some cases direct quotations are taken.

The Wootens In England

I myself have long been acquainted with members of this family. For forty years I knew Rev. Frank Wooten, Baptist minister and for years superintendent of the Columbus county schools, and his good wife, the former Miss Mattie Thompson, daughter of Dr. Thompson, of the Canetuck section, covering part of Pender and Bladen. The latter was present. I knew Rev. —. —. Wooten, an Episcopal minister who preached occasionally at Burgaw forty years ago. Now I know Rev. J. C. Wooten, the M. E. presiding elder, and conclude that, while the family is predominantly Baptist, the preachers have covered a wide denominational area. And I find in Mrs. Brown's paper that Rev. Nicholas Wooten was dean of Canterbury Cathedral, away back in the old days of England. The family seems innately religious.

The Wootens derive from Boughton, Malherby in Kent. There Thomas Wooten once entertained Queen Elizabeth and her court, possibly including Sir Walter Raleigh. The Virgin Queen offered knighthood to this Thomas Wooten, who for thirty years had served her in various governmental capacities, but the independent old fellow declined the honor with thanks. This early Wooten is described as a man of great learning, religion, and wealth. His son, however, was not so high-batted and condescended to be knighted by James I. A daughter of this Lord Thomas Wooten, Catherine, married Lord Stanhope, and was created a countess for life by Charles II.

The First American Wootens

Dr. Thomas Wooten came over as surgeon, or physician, to the Jamestown Colony. He is thought to have been the fourth son of the Thomas who declined knighthood, and therefore brother to Lord Thomas Wooten. It has been impossible to find documentary evidence that Dr. Wooten is the founder of

the North Carolina family of Wootens. There were no land grants recorded till 1633 and the first land grant to a Wooten recorded was in 1642, 36 years after the Jamestown settlement. The grantee, Richard Wooten, could well have been the son of Dr. Thomas Wooten. Thomas Wooten settled in the county of Isle of Wight, which then included what is now Halifax county, N. C. This is presumed to be another son of the Jamestown settler. If so, the North Carolina Wootens are thus found to be descendants of one of the first English settlers in America, since the Wootens are originally derived from Halifax county. Thomas Wooten had one son Richard; that Richard had two sons, Richard and Thomas.

Ensign, Shadrach Wooten

It develops that the Wootens were planted in Columbus from Lenoir and that Lenoir Wootens of late days are descended from replantings in Lenoir from Columbus. The family in the eastern counties must have very nearly run out when Ensign Shadrach Wooten, shortened to Shade Wooten, was born in 1759, for, according to Mrs. Brown, the Wootens of that section and descendants of two sons of Shadrach Wooten, who remained in or moved back to Lenoir after their father had settled in Columbus. That fact unifies the two groups of Wootens to a greater extent than I had supposed.

The father of Ensign Wooten is stated to have been Council, a name with Shade very popular with both groups. At sixteen young Shadrach was appointed ensign to Colonel Caswell of the Minute Men and participated with him in the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge. After the Revolution he settled in Lenoir and twice represented the county in the General Assembly. He later bought 10,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Western Prong church in the present Columbus county, where he is buried, and moved with his children, except John, to the tract in 1805. His wife died just before the removal. Her grave is in Sandy Bottom churchyard, Lenoir county. The Columbus tract consists of fine farm lands. He was in what is now Columbus three years before the formation of Columbus county and served on the committee of seven which selected the site for the county seat. Thus it was the worthy ancestor of all the Wooten of Lenoir and the southern border counties whose memory was honored on August 18.

Prominent Descendants

The son John represented Lenoir in the Legislature 1807-1809. My document does not reveal whether Council Wooten, father of the late Council S. Wooten and grandfather of Dr. Joyner, was a son of John or Allen, the two sons settling in Lenoir. But Mrs. Brown characterizes the older Council as "an aristocrat of ante-bellum days, a man of influence and wealth, a member of the constitutional convention of 1835," which would indicate that he was

(Continued from page two)