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## THE MOORE COUNTY PAPERS

AN ANCIENT ACCOUNT OF THE MASSACRE AT  
PINEY BOTTOM

An Episode of the Revolution That Took Place a Few Miles from  
Southern Pines on the Road to Raeford



DURING the Revolutionary War the Sandhills were the headquarters of one of the most daring and terrible of all the guerilla captains in Cornwallis' army. The story of Colonel David Fanning reads like a dime novel. He had managed to enlist in his desperate adventure most of the loyal Scots of the section with the result that the Pinehurst region was at that time the scene of one of the most bloodthirsty feuds ever recorded in America. Fanning's undoubted courage and ingenuity was rendered infamous by his cruel and merciless methods of warfare, which resembled more nearly that of the modern Prussian than anything conceivable in the wilderness.

As a consequence the Minute Men and Continental leaders who were among the foremost patriots in the whole infant Union, and themselves men of iron and fighting spirit, began to retaliate upon the more easily accessible Tories. With the inevitable result of such wild scenes of surprise and murder without quarter as are here recorded.

The following account of the Massacre at Piney Bottom is given verbatim as told and recorded many years ago by the neighbors and clansmen of those concerned. It should prove of interest to many of our citizens because the clans and even the individuals are still represented here, in the third and fourth generations.

The place has been carefully pointed out to us by the old settlers, and is being marked with a concrete monument and is shown upon the historical map printed in our last issue—not that it is desired to commemorate such an outrage; but the Historical Society considers it advisable to make a permanent and complete record of all the remaining

memories of the Old Time, and hence this disaster is recorded along with many others of a more heroic and pleasant association.

### THE OLD CHRONICLE

The following facts were furnished by an intelligent and highly esteemed friend, in that region, who has taken much pains to have them substantially correct; and they are here given as illustrative of the vindictive spirit, which then reigned in both parties, and of the deeds of reckless cruelty, which were then committed, everywhere over the country. As he only furnished the facts, I have not copied his language; but have not exaggerated or altered the statements.

### TORIES CAPTURE THE SANDHILLS

Capt. Neill McCranie, who belonged to Colonel Armstrong's command, was stationed west of Fayetteville, near little Rockfish; and kept the Tories, for some time, tolerably quiet; and so did Colonel Mathew's, who was stationed on Crane's Creek, in the lower edge of Moore County; but the Tories ultimately got possession of the whole country, between the Cape Fear and the Pedee Rivers. Gates was defeated at Camden, and the British overran South Carolina. Many fled for safety from South Carolina and the Pedee country, into North Carolina and a number went on to the Whig region, on Neuse River. Among these, were Captain Clup of South Carolina, Colonel Wade of Anson County and Archd. McKisic of Ashpole in Robeson County whose son was taken prisoner at McPherson's Mill Creek, and whose property was all destroyed before his return.

### THE WHIGS TAKE A CHANCE

After Cornwallis had gone north and General Green into South Carolina, Colonel Wade and Captain Culp concluded that they would return home, and be-