

THE GUILFORD BATTLE GROUND

A HISTORY OF UNIQUE HEROES.

Some Interesting History of Old Times—The North Carolina Cavalry.

D. Schenck, in Greensboro Patriot.

It is interesting to discover and publish every incident, anecdote, and occurrence connected with the Guilford Court House whether it be of the brave men who fought there or the arms they used and even of the horses they rode, and of these last animals much of interest can be said mostly of the English horses, which fared badly that day.

First upon the authority of Mrs. Ross personally and upon well authenticated tradition

A Fine Gray Horse

Was shot and killed under Lord Cornwallis very near a large persimmon tree, still standing, very near and in front of Mrs. Ross' residence. She donated the spot and tree to the Battle Ground Company. She states that a very old lady, a Mrs. White, who lived near the spot, took Mrs. Ross, then Miss Meredith, to the tree then small, and pointed it out to her this place where this noble animal was shot by the riflemen under Col. Campbell. Mrs. Ross states that the horse lay there until he decomposed and left a greasy spot upon the ground.

The Dragoon's Horse.

As soon as this splendid steed fell his lordship mounted a Dragoon's horse. Lamb, the English historian, and an officer in this battle, relates this incident in regard to the Dragoon's horse:

"On the instant, however, I saw Lord Cornwallis riding across clear ground. His lordship was mounted on a Dragoon's horse, his own having been shot. The saddle bags were under the creature's belly, which much retarded his progress, owing to the vast quantity of underwood that was spread over the ground. His lordship was evidently unconscious of his danger. I immediately laid hold of the bridle of his horse and turned his head, I then mentioned to him that if his lordship had pursued the same direction he would in a few moments have been surrounded by the enemy and perhaps cut to pieces or captured. I continued to run along side of the horse keeping the bridle in my hand until his lordship gained the 23rd regiment, which was at that time drawn up in the skirt of the woods."

The common tradition is that this horse was killed about a hundred and fifty yards from and a little north-west of the present restaurant in a blind road at the northern boundary of the Battle ground.

Roundhead.

This horse was a splendid import-stallion presented to Cornwallis by Col. Fannin and killed during the battle by a cannon ball. We have this account of the career of this noble animal:

Judge Maurice Moore was a man of large wealth and lived in Brunswick county. Just previous to the Revolution he imported from England the thoroughbred stallion, Montrose, by name of a brood mare, "Highland Mary," of equally fine blood. One of the progeny of this pair was roundhead," a large splendid red bay. This horse he gave to his son-in-law, Gen. Francis Nash, then a resident of Hillsboro, where the horse developed into a noted racer. When Gen. Nash went into military service under Washington he left "Roundhead" at Hillsboro. David Fannin, the noted Tory guerrilla, dashed into Hillsboro and seized "Roundhead." Gen. Nash was subsequently killed at Germantown. He had with him a body-servant,

negro named Harry. The efficiency and fidelity of were well known and Gen. William R. Davie made a request of the executor of Gen. Nash for the hire of Harry as a body-servant to himself, and Harry went again to the war. We next hear of him at the battle of Guilford. In the action Harry was close to the heels of Davie and Greene. The latter with his field-glass directed attention to Lord Cornwallis and commented playfully upon the splendid of the "Constable of the Tower."

The eyes of Harry were at once directed to the same object and he cried out, "If dare ain't Lord Cornwallis ridin' on Roundhead." Harry had often groomed "Roundhead" and knew him well. The battle raged from one part of the field to the other, General Greene, Davie and Harry keeping together. They came at length upon a fine horse recently shot down in its last agonies. Harry immediately recognized "Roundhead," pierced by a grapeshot through both fore-legs and the body. Harry expressed great delight that "Roundhead" had been killed since the British got a hold of him.

General Greene's Horse.

It seems that Gen. Green's horse was a most intelligent and teachable animal, performing tricks to the delight of those around him. I have the following tradition in regard to this horse, which I take from an account given me a few years ago. Mr. Albert C. Ray informs Judge Schenck that when he often heard this story from the old people that lived at Guilford Court House:

"Daniel Hobbs, the ancestor for M. V. Hobbs, of this generation lived about a half mile East of Guilford Court House on a farm owned by William Jenkins, who sold it to William Carr, where he kept a county inn for the accommodation of travelers and persons visiting the court house. That on the morning of the battle Gen. Greene rode down to the Hobbs Inn for breakfast. When he came out there was quite a crowd around the General's horse admiring him. The Gen. being in a felicitous humor took his sword from its scabbard and giving it a twirl with the dexterity of a juggler plunged the point of the blade into a large white oak tree nearby, and then demanded his horse to fetch it to him. The splendid animal immediately advanced and taken the handle in his mouth pulled it out of the tree and bore it to his master."

This horse and his rider made a narrow escape seventy five yards North of Clyde Spring. See Schenck's "North Carolina 1780-81." as follows:

"Such also had been the apprehension for the consequences of the defeat of the 2nd battalion of guards that the 21st battalion had been ordered up from the left and had reached the New Garden road on which Greene was anxiously observing the progress of events. The bush on the roadside had so effectually concealed the advance of this corps from view that Gen. Green had approached within a few paces of them. When they were discovered by his aide, Maj. Morris, and pointed out to him, he had the presence of mind to retire in a walk. A precipitate flight would probably have drawn upon him a volley of musketry."

Cavalry.

Col. Lee frequently speaks of the superiority of his American cavalry horses over the horses of Tarleton's English Dragoons. He says the latter were small and "bob-tailed." The American horses were large and heavy and could ride these horses down. It is singular to relate that both Lee and Tarleton were chosen by their respective commanders north and placed at the head of picked corps. Both corps were thoroughly equipped and splendidly uniformed both wore green velvet jackets and

their respective men were frequently mistaken for each other on that account, as at Pyle's defeat in Alamance county. Tarleton had to recruit his corps at times with American Tories, by which it became demoralized, and for that reason Col. William Washington gave Tarleton such a sund thrashing at Cowpens. Col. Tarleton lost two fingers at Guilford.

Second Escape of Cornwallis—(See Schenck, P. 377).

"The next escape from danger by Lord Cornwallis took place at the foot of a steep hill East of the fork of the Bruce and Salisbury roads, near the ancient white oak just in the skirts of the fiery contest. Col. Wm. Washington, who had drawn off his troops, was hovering around to watch his opportunity for another onset, and approached that same old oak unperceived by his lordship. Stooping to beckon on his men to move and intercept the officer then unknown to him, he happened to strike his unlaced helmet from his head. While dismounted to recover it a round of grapeshot from the British artillery wounded the officer next in command to Washington and incapacitated to manage his horse. The animal wheeled around and carried the officer off of the field, followed by the rest of the cavalry, who unhappily supposed that the movement had been directed. Thus Cornwallis escaped."

Peter Francisco, The Giant

Was a volunteer cavalryman from Virginia and performed sanguinary service on that memorable day. This was related to him, (Schenck, p. 365):

"Col. Washington, who was on the ridge above the little valley, (where Clyde Spring is now situated) witnessed the inglorious flight of the second Marylanders. Washington had with him one company of North Carolina cavalry, forty men under the Marquis of Breigny and a fine company of Virginia volunteer cavalry from Prince Edward county under Capt. Thomas Watkins, and in this county was Peter Francisco, The Giant. Washington sounded the bugle for a charge, and pushing down the slope of the ridge leaped across the branch in his front and rushed in full gallop upon the rear of the "Queen's Guard," and passed through slew them right and left. Lieutenant Holcomb, of Capt. Watkins company, relates:

"The strong army of Francisco leveled three of the enemy during one charge and eleven before the fight was over." In Foot's Sketches of North Carolina, he said: "The carnage was dreadful. It was at this time that the noted Francisco performed a deed of blood without parallel. One of the guards thrust his bayonet and in spite of the parrying of Francisco's sword pinned his leg to the horse. Francisco forbore to strike but assisted him to extricate his bayonet. As the soldier turned and fled Francisco made a furious blow with his sword and cleft, the poor fellow down to his shoulders."

North Carolina Cavalry.

But few persons in our State are aware of the fact that North Carolina had a company of cavalry in this battle who were under the command of the Marquis of Breigny, a French nobleman, who came over with Lafayette to help us in our struggle for liberty. They were well mounted and did their duty fully on that day. It is an unaccountable fact that Gen. Greene is his desire to suppress the number of troops in his command has omitted names of a great many gallant officers and soldiers who fought staunchly by his side. There were at least two thousand volunteer militia and cavalrymen who he does not number or allude to in his report of the battle. This, however seems to have been a custom of that day, as Col. Campbell did the same in his report of the battle of King's Mountain. It is a matter of great regret that the military rolls of Green's army have been irredeemably lost from the war records at Washington, and many a gallant soldier has lost his fame by this misfortune.

Aug. 2, '97.

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pm	daily.		pm	sun.
5 40	9 20	Norfolk (Ferry)	6 10	10 10
6 10	9 50	West Norfolk	4 45	9 45
6 19	9 58	Churchland	4 38	9 37
6 31	10 10	Shoujders Hill	4 25	9 26
6 52	10 30	Suffolk	4 05	9 06
7 20	10 53	Holland	3 40	8 09
7 28	10 58	Elwood	3 35	8 34
7 40	11 11	Franklin	3 22	8 22
8 01	11 30	Courtland	3 03	8 00
8 14	11 42	Pope	2 51	7 48
8 19	11 47	Capron	2 46	7 44
8 38	12 04	Drewryville	2 32	7 30
9 07	12 30	Emporia	2 02	6 58
9 32	12 49	Pleasant Shade	1 43	6 38
10 00	1 12	Lawrenceville	1 17	6 10

WESTERN DIVISION.

No. 5.	No. 6.
am	pm
5 52	1 17
6 03	1 28
6 23	1 46
6 33	1 54
6 40	2 02
6 54	2 17
7 02	2 24
7 23	2 41
7 45	3 00
7 55	3 10
8 07	3 22
8 18	3 33
8 28	3 42
8 50	3 58
9 00	4 08
9 11	4 17
9 24	4 30
9 43	4 41
10 00	4 55
10 15	5 07
10 35	5 25
am	pm

Buffalo Lithia Spring Branch, schedule in effect June 15th, 1897.

Daily	Monday
ex sun.	only
no 25 & 23	no 21
3 30	8 10
3 50	8 30
no 20	no 22
7 50	10 55
7 30	10 35

Train Service on the Buffalo Lithia Springs Branch begins June 15th and is discontinued October 1st.

Trains No. 3 will wait at Emporia for Atlantic Coast Line train No. 85 South bound, when notified by the latter that they have passengers for points on A. & D. west of Emporia. Trains 5 and 6 daily except Sunday

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DAILY			
	No 25	No 11	No 17
SOUTHBOUND			
Lv Richmond	12 55 pm	12 05 am	
Lv Danville	6 20 pm	6 05 am	
Ar Greensboro	7 37 pm	7 32 am	
Lv Goldsboro	2 70 pm	6 30 pm	
Ar Raleigh	7 10 pm	11 45 pm	
Lv Raleigh	4 10 pm	6 05 am	10 3 am
Lv Durham	5 15 pm	6 10 am	11 35 am
Ar Greensboro	7 20 pm	8 28 am	
Lv Winston-Salem	12 night	9 30 am	
Lv Greensboro	7 45 pm	8 32 am	
Ar Salisbury	8 50 pm	9 37 am	
Ar Statesville		11 09 am	
Ar Asheville		2 25 pm	
Ar Hot Springs		3 32 pm	
Lv Salisbury	9 17 pm	10 10 am	
Ar Charlotte	10 00 pm	11 15 am	
Lv Charlotte	10 55 pm	11 40 am	
Lv Spartanburg	1 05 am	2 50 pm	
Lv Greenville	1 57 am	4 10 pm	
Ar Atlanta	5 10 am	9 5	

DAILY			
	No 12	No 36	No 38
NORTHBOUND			
Lv Atlanta	7 50 am	11 30 pm	
Lv Greenville	2 14 am	3 22 am	
Lv Spartanburg	3 19 am	4 26 am	
Ar Charlotte	6 40 pm	7 15 am	8 3 pm
Ar Charlotte	6 40 pm	7 15 am	8 30 p
Lv Charlotte	6 40 pm	9 30 am	8 30 p
Ar Salisbury	8 10 pm	8 47 am	9 38 p
		12 23 pm	
Lv Hot Springs		1 29 pm	
Lv Asheville		7 03 pm	
Lv Statesville		7 55 pm	
Ar Salisbury	8 15 pm	10 47 am	9 38 pm
Ar Greensboro	9 52 pm	12 10 am	1 48 am
Ar Winston-Salem	12 00 a't	4 00 pm	5 3 pm
Lv Greensboro	1 33 am	10 15 am	
Ar Durham	5 50 am	12 09 pm	
Ar Raleigh	7 30 am	1 10 pm	
Lv Raleigh	9 05 am	1 10 pm	
Ar Goldsboro	12 50 pm	3 00 pm	
Lv Greensboro	4 52 pm	10 15 am	1 3 pm
Ar Danville	11 25 am	11 45 pm	1 14 am
Ar Richmond	6 35 am	4 40 pm	

Between West Point and Richmond.

Leave West Point 7 50 A. M. daily and 8 50 A. M. daily except Sunday and Monday; arrive Richmond 9 05 and 10 40 A. M. Returning leave Richmond 3 10 P. M. and 4 45 P. M. daily except Sunday; arrive West Point 5 00 and 6 05 P. M.

Between Richmond and Raleigh via Keysville.

Leave Richmond 12 30 P. M. daily; leave Keysville 4 00 P. M.; arrive Oxford 6 15 P. M., Henderson 7 10 P. M., Durham 7 40 P. M., Raleigh 7 40 A. M. Returning leave Raleigh 10 35 A. M., daily, Durham 11 30 A. M., Oxford 12 55 P. M.; arrive Keysville 3 05 P. M., Richmond 6 55 P. M. daily.

Trains on O. & H. R. E., leave Oxford 6 20 P. M., and 7 00 P. M., daily except Sunday, 11 05 A. M., daily, and arrive at Henderson 7 10 P. M., and 7 50 A. M., daily except Sunday and 1 55 P. M., daily. Return leave Henderson 11 00 P. M., and arrive at Oxford 11 50 A. M. daily.

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