

House in the Horseshoe Virtual Field Trip

The Skirmish

High School

Standards

AH1.H.1.1 Use Chronological thinking to: *1. Identify the structure of a historical narrative or story: (its beginning, middle and end).* 2. Interpret data presented in time lines and create time lines.

AH1.H.1.2 Use Historical Comprehension to: *1. Reconstruct the literal meaning of a historical passage. 2. Differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations. 3. Analyze data in historical maps. 4. Analyze visual, literary and musical sources.*

AH1.H.1.3 Use Historical Analysis and Interpretation to: *1. Identify issues and problems in the past. 2. Consider multiple perspectives of various peoples in the past. 3. Analyze cause-and-effect relationships and multiple causation. 4. Evaluate competing historical narratives and debates among historians. 5. Evaluate the influence of the past on contemporary issues.*

AH1.H.1.4 Use Historical Research to: *1. Formulate historical questions. 2. Obtain historical data from a variety of sources. 3. Support interpretations with historical evidence. 4. Construct analytical essays using historical evidence to support arguments.*

Vocabulary

Primary source - an immediate firsthand account written by someone who was directly involved

Secondary source - a secondhand account written by someone who was not directly involved

In 1781, a skirmish took place at a lone house in the lush countryside of what is now Moore County, North Carolina. That house was known as the House in the Horseshoe, and it still stands today. Philip Alston, a colonel in the American militia who owned the house, and David Fanning, a British Loyalist who commanded his own militia, clashed in a violent, hours-long conflict that proved to be important for local North Carolina citizens, both Patriot and Loyalist. Watch the following videos to meet the men whose names became synonymous with the House in the Horseshoe. After you have watched their videos, watch the reenactment of the conflict that would solidify House in the Horseshoe's place in North Carolina history.

[Meet Philip Alston \(Video\)](#)

[Meet David Fanning \(Video\)](#)

[The Skirmish \(Video\)](#)

Now that you have watched a reenactment of the 1781 skirmish, how do you know that what you saw was accurate? What information do we have to show what really happened that fateful day in July? When conducting historical research, primary and secondary sources are invaluable ways to learn more about what you're researching. We know that on July 29, 1781, Philip Alston and his militia faced David Fanning and *his* militia. Primary and secondary sources *both* came out of this event, but knowing that, which account is the right one? Knowing for sure what happened can be difficult, as all recorded accounts tend to contradict each other in some way, shape, or form. How long did the skirmish last? Who was involved? What day did it take place? Who was injured? Who was killed? These are all questions that our sources ask and even somewhat answer, but they do not always line up with each other. Read the complete primary sources from Elijah Fooshee and Stephen Collins, two of Alston's militiamen who applied for pensions years later, and David Fanning himself, who wrote a memoir of his life later on. As you read all three sources, make a list of all the contradicting information from each source as well as the information that remains the same.

[David Fanning's Narrative](#)

[Elijah Fooshee's Pension Statement](#)

[Stephen Collins's Pension Statement](#)

In 1854, Reverend Eli Caruthers wrote an account of the Revolutionary War based off the notes of a local lawyer named Archibald McBryde. Since Caruthers did not directly experience the skirmish and record it, his account is a secondary source. His telling of the skirmish at the House in the Horseshoe is much lengthier and in depth than what even Fanning writes. Read Caruthers's account in its entirety, and again, make a list of information that *doesn't* match up with that of another source and of information that *does*.

[Caruthers's Account](#)

Finally, we have the account of General John Butler, who wrote a letter to Governor Burke detailing what happened at the Alston House. Read the transcript, again making a list of what contradicts with the other sources and a list that agrees with them.

General Butler's Account

Is this a primary or secondary source? Was General Butler present at the skirmish? Write a brief reflection on whether you think General Butler's letter counts as a primary or secondary source and why. Think about what is more valuable to consult when doing research: primary or secondary sources. Can they both be equally important? Why? What about the experiences of people who did not write down what happened, such as Philip Alston's wife Temperance? Or the enslaved people who were owned by the Alston family? In the case of the Alstons' enslaved workers, not even their names are known, and so who was present on the day of the skirmish remains lost to passing of time. Why do we not have any of their accounts? Include answers to these questions in your reflection. As you continue to read about history, consider all of the questions you have asked yourself today, and use them to help come to conclusions about what is considered factual and what is considered worth remembering when it comes to historical accounts.

I then returned to the head of Little River, on my way to Coxe's Mill : where I was met by two men, who informed me that the Rebels had separated into two small parties ; thinking I should never return fr̄m. Wilmington : I passed on and got intelligence of Col. Altstine lying on the banks of Deep River, with a party of 25 men. We marched all that day and night following ; and just as the day dawned, we advanced in three divisions, up to a house, they had thrown themselves into. On our approach, we fired upon the house, as I was determined to make examples of them, for behaving in the manner they had done, to one of my pilots, by name, Kenneth Black. They returned our fire, and the action continued upwards of 3 hours, when after killing four of them, and wounding all the rest, except three, they sent out a flag to surrender. Col. Altine's lady begging

their lives. On her solicitation, I concluded to grant her request; and after the capitulation I gave the following paroles to Col. Philip Alstane and his men.

“ I do hereby acknowledge myself a Prisoner of war, upon my parole, to His Excellency Sir Henry Clinton, and that I am hereby engaged till I shall be exchanged, or otherwise released therefrom, to proceed immediately to my plantation on Dunnam’s Creek, Cumberland county (or elsewhere) No Carolina, there to remain; or within five miles thereof—and that I shall not in the mean time, do, or cause any thing to be done, prejudicial to the success of his Majesty’s arms; nor have any intercourse or hold correspondence with the enemies of his Majesty—and that upon a summons from his Excellency, or other Person having authority thereto, that I will surrender myself up to him or them, at such time and place as shall hereafter be required.

PHILIP ALSTINE

Col’n.

Cumberland County,

Deep River; July 29th, 1781.

Witness; DAVID FANNING, *Col’o Com’g Loyal Militia*

In the course of this affair, we had two men killed, and four wounded, who afterwards recovered. A party of Rebels appeared in sight a little time after the firing began; but they did not approach to afford Col. Altstone any support. When the action was over, they ran off; and our horses being quite fatigued, rendered it impossible for me, to pursue them. I then pursued my route to Cox’s Mill, where on my arrival I gave twelve hours leave to the men; after detaching a sufficient number for the necessary guards, to go to their respective homes. Immediately after that, I heard

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Elijah Fooshee R3635

f18NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

1/1/09 rev'd 7/27/14

[Methodology: Spelling, punctuation and/or grammar have been corrected in some instances for ease of reading and to facilitate searches of the database. Where the meaning is not compromised by adhering to the spelling, punctuation or grammar, no change has been made. Corrections or additional notes have been inserted within brackets or footnotes. Blanks appearing in the transcripts reflect blanks in the original. A bracketed question mark indicates that the word or words preceding it represent(s) a guess by me. The word 'illegible' or 'indecipherable' appearing in brackets indicates that at the time I made the transcription, I was unable to decipher the word or phrase in question. Only materials pertinent to the military service of the veteran and to contemporary events have been transcribed. Affidavits that provide additional information on these events are included and genealogical information is abstracted, while standard, 'boilerplate' affidavits and attestations related solely to the application, and later nineteenth and twentieth century research requests for information have been omitted. I use speech recognition software to make all my transcriptions. Such software misinterprets my southern accent with unfortunate regularity and my poor proofreading skills fail to catch all misinterpretations. Also, dates or numbers which the software treats as numerals rather than words are not corrected: for example, the software transcribes "the eighth of June one thousand eighty six" as "the 8th of June 1786." Please call material errors or omissions to my attention.]

State of Tennessee Wilson County

On this 8th day of April 1845 personally appeared in open Court, before the Justices of the County Court of said County of Wilson (the same being a court of record) now sitting in Lebanon Elijah Fooshee, a resident citizen of said County & State, -- aged about 81 years & some months; having been born 22nd of December 1763, who being first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832

He entered the service of the United States under the following named officers & served as herein stated.

In the month of August 1780 he volunteered as a private in the State guards of North Carolina. On the 1st day of the month of August at a general muster a call was made for volunteers & he & seven or eight others stepped out & a draft was then made for others. The 15th of the same month was the day fixed for the rendezvous at the house of Colonel Litrells [sic, John Luttrell] about the center of Chatham County North Carolina within about eight miles of the residence of said declarant. On which day he entered the service & received arms from the State. Luttrell was Colonel, John Butler Major -- John Maybon [John Mayben] Captain, your declarant was elected Lieutenant, & James Crutchfield Ensign. The times were then very troublesome & Tories numerous in Randolph & other adjacent counties, & barracks were built & other preparations made for defense or attack. About the middle of September having made some progress in discipline & other preparations for efficient service, the troops took up the line of march against the Tories, horse thieves & robbers, & went into Randolph, Montgomery & Moore Counties, in the latter County we had an engagement [probably the action at the House in the Horseshoe, July 29, 1781]¹ with the Tories under the command of a Tory by the name of Captain Duck, at the house of a man by the name of Alston [Philip Alston]. Three or four rounds were fired by each side -- six of the Tories were killed & four of the Whigs wounded. We were in the house some in each story of the house. One of the Tories (a Scotchman) during the battle got a bundle of flax & run with it after setting it on fire to burn the house, but being discovered by our party was shot down & when examined had three balls in him. This declarant shot one ball at him & two others during the conflict. The Tories fled & were seen by us no more. We

¹ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_house_in_the_horseshoe.html David Fanning was in command of the Tory forces at this engagement, not "Captain Duck." Capt. Jacob Duckworth of Chatham County commanded one of the Whig companies in this engagement and the veteran MAY have been confusing this officer with one of the Tories.

then heard of a man being murdered by the Tories near the house of a Baptist preacher by the name of Davis in Chatham County. Our party then consisting of about twenty, the other troops having been in the same manner divided out were engaged in different sections -- our party were under the command of the Captain heretofore named. On Haw River we overhauled three of the party who had perpetrated the murder alluded to & other mischief & killed John & Tom Philip as they retreated, & took Frank Arving the head man among them prisoner, & on the next day hung him on a large limb of the walnut tree on the bank of the river about two hundred yards above Petty's Mill. He was a large fat man & before he swung off acknowledged many of his crimes & refused to ask for any quarters. This declarant afterwards ascertained that the same party had robbed the house of his father of a cloak, half [indecipherable word]² in gold that belonged to his mother & with other things the rifle of this declarant. From this we went back to the Station at Luttrell's where we remained about a week or ten days, & then divided out into parties & when out again through the adjoining Counties, scouring the country in every direction & returned to the station in November & took up winter quarters. About the first of March the Tories became pretty bold again & we marched out to hunt them, which we did about the middle of March at Lindley's Mill [September 13, 1781]³ on Cain Creek on the road to Hillsboro -- we had our whole force about eighty in number & Colonel Luttrell was in command, the Tories were commanded by Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] a celebrated Scotch Tory & the same Captain Duck before named with about 120 men. The battle commenced about 9 O'clock & continued about one hour when the Tories retreated having about 36 killed on the field Captain Duck⁴ being among the slain. Colonel Fanning as we understood afterwards was wounded in the action but made his escape. On our side there were four killed & three wounded. Colonel Luttrell while gallantly fighting at the head of the Regiment was killed. The Tories were all mounted & our troops were on foot & consequently we did not pursue them. This was about six miles from our station to which we returned after the action with the corpse of our beloved Colonel after having buried the other three gallant fellows in coffins on the battleground. We then remained at the barracks until the expiration of the term of eight months for which we had engaged which occurred about the middle of April 1781. Our Major Butler then stated to us that our time was out & that we were discharged. We then went home, but received no written discharge. This Declarant held his command of Lieutenant for the whole term. He had his commission from the Governor, but it, with all his other papers were destroyed before he left North Carolina by an unavoidable accident -- a storm which threw down his house destroyed almost everything that was in it.

2 Term of Service. This declarant remained at home with his father, until the 20th May 1781 when a call was again made for mounted volunteers, when he again entered the service & was elected Captain. Aaron Evans was elected Lieutenant & James Crutchfield who was out in the other tour was elected Ensign. Wm Goldson [sic, William Goldston or Gholson] was Colonel & Joseph Rosser was Major. We acted under the orders of General Ambrose Ramsey who was the general of the County of Chatham but did not go out with our Regiment. We entered at once upon our duties & scoured the country all around embracing some 8 or ten

² 

Jar? Ioz? [? abbreviation of the word "ounce"]

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_lindleys_mill.html

⁴ The Tory officers thought to have been killed at Lindley's Mill are Capt. Edward Edwards of Orange County, Capt. William Deaton of Chatham County; and Col. Hector McNeill. I've been unable to identify the man referred to by the veteran as Capt. Duck.

counties but had no engagement with the enemy. When not marching, which was but a small portion of our time, we were generally stationed at Colonel Goldston's. On hearing that Colonel Lee [Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee] was coming on to attack the British at Guilford [March 15, 1781] our troops were at once put in motion to join him, but we arriving at Holt's Mill in Orange County we heard the firing at Guilford about 20 miles distant, & finding we were too late to be of any service, called a halt there where we remained two or three days, & on knowing the result of the battle we returned to Colonel Goldston's & remained there three or four days when we again entered upon the duty of scouring the adjacent country to protect the people from the Tories & British until we heard of the surrender of Cornwallis at York [October 19, 1781], when the Tories became peaceable & the people generally quiet & secure. They remained after this most of their time at their station or Camp at Colonel Goldston's until the expiration of the term for which they had volunteered & were discharged on 20 November by the Colonel, but no written discharges were given We furnished our own horses & most of us & this declarant among the number, our arms. So this declarant served his country in the command of Lieutenant as a volunteer one campaign or engagement of 8 months & one as Captain of Cavalry 6 months -- in all 14 months

He has no documentary evidence of his services nor does he know of any living witness by whom he can prove them.

In answer to the interrogatories embraced in the instructions of the War Department, he Claimant further declares upon his oath before the court, that he was born as before stated on 22 December 1763 in Chatham County North Carolina at the time of his birth was recorded in his father's family Bible where he has often read it & recollects it distinctly as above stated, but where the said Bible now is he does not know & he has no other record of his age. At the time he entered the service he was living with his father, Simon Fooshee, in Chatham County North Carolina where he remained until December 1841 when he removed to the County of Smith where he lived with his daughter Mrs. Petty about one year & then came to the adjoining County of Wilson where he has lived ever since & now resides with another daughter Mrs. Harrison. The answer to the 4, 5 & 6 interrogatories are fully embodied in this declaration. In answer to the 7th & last interrogatory he states that he is known by many persons in his present neighborhood among whom all the following, who he believes would testify as to his character for veracity & their belief of his services in the revolutionary war Shiloh Waters, Esqr., Col. Denis Smith, Col. C. W. Cummings, Wm B. Guild, ___ Hoffman, George L. Swan, Dr. Hazzard, ___Sweat &c &c.

The declarant further states as a reason for the lateness of his application that he had determined not to call upon his government for aid under any of the pension laws. To this he would have adhered but for the misfortunes by which he has been reduced to poverty & entire dependence upon the charity of others, & most if not all of those who would be most inclined to assist him are unable to extend to him such relief. And being now overtaken by the infirmities of old age & entirely unable to work for his living, with a wife in the same condition of dependence & want now about seventy-five years of age, he feels that he has a right to avail himself of the liberal provisions of his government in behalf of those who took part in the war of Independence.


He has never received one cent for the services rendered by him by either the State or Federal Government.

He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present & declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the Agency of any State.

Sworn to & subscribed in open court this April 8, 1845.

S/ J. J. McClain, Clerk

S/ Elijah Fooshee

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elijah Fooshee". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored, slightly textured paper background.

[James Warren, a clergyman, and Thomas Vaughan gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[In a letter in the file dated August 12, 1846, the writer states that Fooshee died 'some months ago' and his widow is trying to find out what has become of his pension application.]

Southern Campaigns American Revolution Pension Statements & Rosters

Pension application of Stephen Collins S30335

f45NC

Transcribed by Will Graves

11/28/10 rev'd 10/27/15

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[p 5]

State of Kentucky Hickman County: SS}

On this the 5th day of October in the year of our Lord 1832 personally appeared in open court before the Honorable Reason Davidge Judge of the Circuit Court for the County and State aforesaid now sitting Stephen Collins a resident of the County and State aforesaid aged 69 years and now in his 70th year as he believes who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers as well as he can recollect and served as herein after stated. In the company of Captain Sassoms Crawford [sic, Lazarus Crawford] belonging to the militia of North Carolina Benjamin Axxum [sic, Benjamin Exum] Colonel – Dixon [perhaps Robert Dixon whose name is also spelled Robert Dickson] Major and was transferred from Crawford company to Captain Jonathan Smith's Company Alexander Smith Lieutenant of the last mentioned company he entered the service sometime about the 8th of June in the year 1780 in the aforesaid State of North Carolina and was mustered into service in __ County and said State in the Town of Kingston [sic, Kinston] on a Tour of three months was marched through the said State without joining any regular Army or in any battle then to the State of South Carolina for the purpose of joining General Gates, affected that object just before the battle of Camden [August 15-16, 1780]¹ but was not at or in said battle owing to being sick and in the hospital. Shortly after his said Gates defeat his term of service then expiring he then went home and was disbanded by his said officers.

He then again entered the service of the United States on the 25th day of December in the same year to wit 1780 he was then in a horse Corps or a mounted Gun man was mustered in to service in Chatham County State of North Carolina belonging to Captain Jacob Duckworth's company Hopkins Die [sic, Hopkins Dye] Lieutenant don't recollect the names of the other company officers. John Lutral or Litral [sic, John Luttrell] Colonel __ Cage [William Cage] Major. During this Campaign was not out of the State of North Carolina – attempted to join General Green [sic, Nathanael Greene] but was unable to effect the object until after the battle of Guilford [March 15, 1781]² before we reached the headquarters of Green who commanded the American Army Luttrell's command was United with Colonel Malbery [sic, Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne] or some such name who I believe was a Frenchman. Shortly

¹ http://www.carolana.com/SC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_camden.html

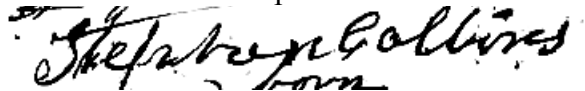
² http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_battle_of_guilford_courthouse.html

after the said battle of Guilford our term of service being expired we then returned home and was again disbanded.

Then again in May 1781 volunteered in the aforesaid Captain Jacob Duckworth's Company Hopkins Die Lieutenant as aforesaid we were also again in a horse Corps under the command of Colonel Philip Alston this Campaign was not out of the aforesaid State nor joined any regular Army but had frequent engagements with the Tories – was wounded by the Tories when they made an attack on the house of the aforesaid Colonel Alston in the right arm [Engagement known as the House in the Horseshoe, July 29, 1781].³ Then again in October 1781 he volunteered again to fight the Tories under the command of Captain Seales [sic, William Seal] Hopkins Die Lieutenant – this Tour was to last as long as the Tories was to be Troublesome all plundered the property from the patriotic citizens he will also state that he lost two horses one at Colonel Alston's worth \$50 in good money and the other one was taken by the Tories worth \$50. He also states that Captain Duckworth's Company when on their march to Guilford attacked and put to rout a company of Tories in the County of Cumberland said State of North Carolina That he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no person whose Testimony he can procure who can testify to his service.

I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any State or Territory of the United States. Sworn and subscribed to the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Stephen Collins



Question by the court

Where and in what year were you born

Answer – I was born in Cumberland County State of North Carolina the ninth day of April in the year 1763

Question 2nd have you any record of your age and if so where is it

Answer – I have no record of my age I only know it from the information of my parents

Question 3 where were you living when called into service where have you lived since the Revolutionary war and where do you now live –

Answer I was living in Cumberland County State of North Carolina and continued to live there until the year 1805 I then moved to Williamson County State of Tennessee then in 1807 I moved from there to Duck River no. [sic] Maury County Tennessee and continued there until 1830 then I moved to Hickman County Kentucky and lived there now

Question 4th. How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a substitute and if a substitute for whom –

Answer. The two first two campaigns I was a substitute the first time I was a substitute for John Westbrook of Wain [Wayne] County North Carolina the second Campaign I was a substitute for one William Duncan Same state the two last Campaigns I was a volunteer

Question fifth State the name of some of the regular officers who were with the troops when you served such Continental and militia regiments as you can recollect and the general circumstances of your service

Answer I do not recollect any of the officers that belonged to the regular Army except General Gates and Baron DeKalb who commanded at Camden and General Green who commanded at

³ http://www.carolana.com/NC/Revolution/revolution_house_in_the_horseshoe.html

Guilford that being the only times I was attached to a regular Army and then but a short time both times and never having joined any State Troops only the commands of Colonel Axxum, Littrel or Lutral Malbery and Alston

Question 6th did you ever receive a discharge from the service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Answer I never was discharged from the service in the several Tours I took always was disbanded and not discharged by my officers –

Question 7 State the names of persons to whom you are known in your present neighborhood and who can testify as to your character for veracity and good behavior your service as a soldier of the revolution

Answer I have no neighbors in my present neighborhood who know of my service as a soldier of the Revolution. I have neighbors who know my character for veracity and good behavior to wit Tapley Binum, Luke Sellers & Joshua E. Cole.

[Tapley Bynum and Luke Sellers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Robert C. Goodgion, a clergyman, gave a standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 33]

State of Kentucky Hickman County: Sct.

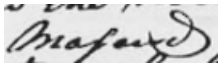
On this 12th day of March 1834 personally appeared before the [sic] me Demsey White a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Stephen Collins a resident of said County and State aged 71 years who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions made by an act of Congress passed June the 7th 1832. That he entered the Service of the United States in the year 1780 and served as hereinafter stated, but he will herein this place remark that owing to old age and consequent loss of memory he will not be precise as to the Exact length of his Services but Served at least as long as the time Set below, To Wit, he entered the Service of the United States on the 8th of June 1780 from Cumberland County State of North Carolina under the following named officers to wit Lazarus Crawford Captain, Alexander Smith Lieutenant was mustered into Service in the Town of Kingston on the aforesaid 8th day of June the Company not being filled I was Transferred from Captain Crawford's Company to Captain Johnathan Smith's Company, ___ Dickson Major, Benjamin Axum Colonel, Richard Caswell Junior Lieutenant Colonel, Richard Caswell Senior General, Marched from Kingston to near Fayetteville East Side of Cape Fear River went up said River and crossed near Ramsey's Mill made a halt for a day or 2 we then marched for South Carolina by the way or near the Cheraw Hills between there and Camden we joined General Gates who had come on from the North with a Regular Army a few days after Joining General Gates I was taken Sick and was Sent to a Hospital at the Cheraw Hills remained at the Cheraw Hills until after the Battle of Camden at which place Gates was defeated. After his defeat as Soon as this applicant was able he returned home after a campaign of three months.

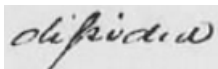
He again entered the Service of the United States under the following named officers, to wit, Jacob Duckworth Captain Hopkins Die Lieutenant, Moses Collins Ensign William Cage Major John Luttrell Colonel. This was a Troop of horse we was mustered into Service on the 25th day of December 1780 in Chatham County State of North Carolina, we was principally engaged in the first part of this campaign in Trying to Qule [sic, quell] the Tories and to keep alive if possible the Spirits of the Patriots and when we would hear of an Army of or passel of Tories assembling our business was to disperse them &c. There came from the North a Major, a

Frenchman, whose name I have forgot unless his name was Mafaurd [?]⁴ who had charge of some artillery Colonel Luttrell Sent a Lieutenant's Command as a Guard for said artillery and this declarant was one of that command and we Guarded said artillery to General Greene's encampments on Pedee [River] this was when the American Army under General Greene was on the North side of Pedee and the British Army was on the South side and Lord Cornwallis whilst we were conducting the aforesaid Artillery to the Army of General Greene a detachment of Colonel Taltons [Banastre Tarleton's] horse attacked the Squadron commanded by Colonel Luttrell and dispersed them we then turned and marched for Salisbury Expecting to Join Colonel Luttrell and then to Join General Greene but Luttrell had returned home or to our barracks that we had in Chatham County and we joined him again. Then we Started to join General Greene we fell in with Colonel Malbery who had command of 2 troops or Companies of horse we then marched for General Greene's headquarters which we understood was at Guilford Courthouse but before we got there the fall of the day was [indecipherable word]⁵ and the firing of both Small arms and all other sort was over, Not Knowing which Side had Gained the victory and being informed by a Citizen that Cornwallis had kept the field we then marched back that night that being to the best of his Recollection the 15th of March 1781, and four of our Company got lost from our Command and this deponent being one of them, and next day fell in to General Greene's camp at Speedwell's Iron Works about ten miles from the field of battle an officer belonging to the command of the aforesaid Colonel Luttrell arrived at General Greene's quarters asking for further orders and we went with him and joined the Corps that we belong to and after a Tour of three months we returned home.

He again entered the Service of the United States in the month of April in the year 1781 under the following named officers to wit Jacob Duckworth Captain, Hopkins Die Lieutenant, Francis Danby Ensign, Philip Alston Colonel Mustered into Service in Cumberland County State of North Carolina – at this time there was a celebrated Tory Commander by the name of Fannon [David Fanning] who was assembling an Army of Royalist under his Command on Deep River we Set out to Dislodge him but he had decamped and fled before we got there, from there we pursued him near the Rath Swamp and then we started to return home and on our return home Alston's command was Divided Captain Duckworth took part of the man and Alston the balance and aforesaid Fannon then following after us, and attacked us when we was in this divided Situation and this Declarant being part of the Command of the said Alston when Said Fannon attacked us and in this action fought between said Alston in said Fannon he was wounded by a ball in the right rist [wrist] which has more or less Disabled me all my life after Receiving the aforesaid wound this declarant returned from the aforesaid Action, then I went to an old Lady in the neighborhood who was a Doctness [sic] other Medical or Surgical aid could not be had, the balance of the Squadron of said Alston being taken by said Fannon this Tour was also a three months Tour of Duty &c.

He again Entered the Service of the United States in the month of October 1781 or there was this Declarant and Two of his neighbors Joined Colonel Cleavland [Benjamin Cleveland?] and Major Hargrove for our Personal Safety for at or before this time Lord Cornwallis having marched through North Carolina to Virginia and Great many of the Citizens being conquered and despairing of Liberty had joined the Royal Army. It was in the latter part of said month of

4 

5 

October we heard the news of the Surrender of Cornwallis at York [October 19, 1781] we was then with the aforesaid Cleavland then this Declarant went home and Joined a Troop of horse commanded by Captain William Sides [sic, William Seal]. We kept ourselves in Readiness we then marched through various parts of said State the Spirit of plunder had got up in a considerable height with the disaffected and Tory population and the Tories having embodied themselves in Companies &c we was Generally or in fact all the time now employed in Keeping the Tories in Subjection & we Served at least three months on this tour, all his Services he Served at least 12 months but owing to old age and consequent loss of memory he Served at least the aforesaid twelve months he further states that owing to old age and his loss of recollection he won't be positive as to the dates of his Services but he has detailed to the best of his recollection he has no Documentary evidence of his Services and he knows of no person in this County that he can prove his Services by he further States that he is unable by in this position and Infirmity of body to go to Clinton the Courthouse in this County a distance of about 17 miles to attend to this matter, he hereby relinquishes every claim to any pension or annuity whatever except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension Roll of any Agency of any State or Territory whatever in the United States, he lives near John McFall and John Sellers who can Testify to my character for veracity and truthfulness and their opinion Respecting my Services as a Soldier of the Revolution. Sworn to before the undersigned an acting Justice of the peace for said County and one of the Justices of the County Court of said County this 12th day of March 1834

S/ Demsey White, JP

S/ Stephen Collins

[John McFall and John Sellers gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[p 39]

Kentucky Hickman County: Sct. I Demsey White an acting Justice of the peace in and for said County Certify I put the six following Interrogatories required by the War Department and the said Collins made the following Answers thereto, to wit

1st Where and in what year were you born

Answer I was born in Cumberland County State of North Carolina and I suppose from Tradition in the year 1763.

2nd. Have you any Record of your age and if so where is it

Answer I have none.

3rd. Where were you living when called into Service, where have you lived Since the Revolutionary War and where do you now live.

Answer I was a youth living in the aforesaid County of Cumberland when called into Service and then I lived about 22 years I moved to Tennessee Williamson County I lived there near 2 years I then moved to Maury County Tennessee where I lived about 23 years and then I moved to this County and have lived here ever since.

4th. How were you called into service were you drafted did you volunteer or were you a Substitute and if a Substitute for whom

Answer I was a substitute first twist [twice] and twist a volunteer, one time I substituted for John Westbrook and the other time for William Duncan

5th State the names of some of the regular officers who were with the troops where you Served Such Continental and Militia Regiments as you can Recollect and the General Circumstances of your Services –

Answer General Gates and Greene and Baron De Kalb of the Regular Army and the officers that I have named in my Declaration of the Militia the Circumstances of my Service is also detailed

in said Declaration.

6th Did you ever receive a discharge from the Service and if so by whom was it given and what has become of it

Answer I was always dispersed or disbanded but the last Tour and then I was discharged by Captain Seals I have lost said Discharge or Mislaide it. Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid

S/ Demsey White, JP

S/ Stephen Collins

[p 20]

State of Kentucky Graves County Sct:}

On this 15th day of February 1836 personally appeared before the undersigned a Justice of the peace in and for the County and State aforesaid Stephen Collins a resident of said County and State aforesaid aged 72 years and 10 months who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the provisions of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

He states he was born in Cumberland County State of North Carolina on the 9th day of April 1763 – he has no record of his age but derived his information on that subject from his father and mother and he recollects also that the laws of North Carolina during the revolution required the use of the state to be enrolled in the militia at the age of 16 & he recollects distinctly of having been put on the militia or muster roll in the spring of 1779 –

That he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as hereinafter stated to wit

1st Tour he first entered the service of the United States on the 8th day of June 1780 at the town of Kingston in the County of Lenoir State of North Carolina the Corps to which he attached himself was drafted militia man for a three months tour. The declarant lived in his native County of Cumberland at the time and John Westbrook of Wayne County was drafted in the Corps above alluded to and sent a man and to Cumberland to hire a substitute in this declarant engaged in his place went to Wayne County to Westbrook's house from whence they both went together to Kingston (that being the place of rendezvous) where he joined Captain Lazarus Crawford's Company of drafted militia & was accepted by said Crawford in the place of Westbrook – Captain Crawford's company did not all meet at the rendezvous and that part who did meet with this declarant was transferred to another company of the same drafted militia commanded by Captain Jonathan Smith of Johnson County [sic, Johnston County] under whom the declarant served this tour of three months in the following is an outline of the said tour to wit he was attached to a Regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Axam and a Major __ Dickson had a command in the same Regiment as also did Lieutenant Colonel Richard Caswell Junior the whole detachment was under the immediate orders of General Richard Caswell Senior and the Lieutenant of his company was named Alexander Smith the whole Corps was drafted for three months service by order of the Governor of North Carolina the whole detachment including the declarant marched up to Cape Fear River & crossed the same at Spruill's ferry from thence to within a few miles of Ramsays Mills where we encamped for some 8 or 10 days when we moved to the South taking in upper route & crossing the Yadkin at Moore's ferry about 20 miles below Salisbury area. Thence down the Yadkin on the South side crossing Rocky River to a point not far south of the Cheraw Hills where this declarant was taken sick about the 9th or 10th of August 1780 and was sent with other sick from the Army to the Cheraw Hills where the American officers had established a hospital he remained at this place until after the fatal battle of Camden

on the 16th of August 1780 when the dispersed stragglers from that unfortunate field brought news to the hospital of our disaster he with the other sick were taken across the Pedee and simply turned loose in the company sick as they were to shift this declarant was seized with a long & protracted spell of fever and ague confined in the country until it produced the spleen in his side and he finally succeeded in reaching home in Cumberland County having served out his tour of three months as he was confined by sickness in the country at his own expense his tour expired on the 8th day of September 1780 – he will state here that General Caswell's division of North Carolina militia to which he belonged were completely dispersed on the unfortunate 16th of August 1780 officers in all consequently the us declarant did not get a discharge for this tour yet he avers that he served it out.

2nd Tour This declarant states that he entered the service of the United States the second time on the 25th day of December 1780 he joined a company of mounted volunteer militia (furnishing his own horse arms and accoutrements) under the command of Captain Jack Duckworth – Hopkins Dye was his Lieutenant and this declarant's half-brother Moses Collins was the Ensign there was one or two other Companies of the same kind of troops belonging to the Corps Major William Cage had a command and the whole detachment was under the immediate orders of Colonel John Littrell [sic, John Luttrell] this declarant entered the above named company on the day above stated in the County of Chatham & State of North Carolina under the following circumstances to wit – William Duncan of the last named County had joined Captain Duckworth's company and was desirous of getting a substitute and this declarant's half-brother having a command in said company made him desirous of joining the same he therefore went from Cumberland County the place of his residence and took Duncan's place on the day above named to wit 25th December 1780 at the place above named – he will here state that Colonel John Littrell had been authorized by the Governor of North Carolina to raise this volunteer Corps and to quarter and subsist them in Chatham County for the purpose of overawing the Tories who had become very restless and unquiet [one or more words obliterated] the state we built barracks in the above named County which became our head quarters and from whence we occasionally made excursions into the surrounding counties to keep down the Tories. We continued in this service until about the 12th January 1781 when Colonel Luttrell sent Lieutenant Hopkins Dye with Ensign Collins and about 25 privates of Captain Duckworth's Company (among which was this declarant) to escort a few pieces of field artillery which was passing from Virginia to General Greens Army under guard of a small company of infantry this service was performed and we reached General Greens encampment on the Pedee nearly opposite the Cheraw Hill the evening before he broke up and commenced his retreat to the North in the latter end of January 1781 – we then started on our return to Colonel Luttrell's barracks in Chatham County when on our route we received information that Colonel Luttrell in an excursion towards Salisbury had come in contact with a troop of Tarleton's horse by whom it was defeated and partially dispersed this caused us to take a lower route in our progress to the North Luttrell's Corps finally assembled at Chatham County where we all remained during the retreat of General Green to Virginia and until after he returned into North Carolina when in the early part of March this declarant with Colonel Luttrell's Corps broke up from Chatham and marched towards Guilford to join Green. On our march we fell in with Colonel Malmedy at the head of a Corps of mounted men, but we were unable to effect a junction with General Green until the day after the battle of Guilford – a few days after which this declarant's term of three months expired to wit on the 25th of March 1781 thus he served three months in his second tour – he received no written discharge he was verbally discharged by his officers the reason was all was confusion and bustle in North

Carolina at that time Lord Cornwallis was retiring down the Cape Fear [River] towards Wilmington the Tories were continually in motion and although the declarant's term of three months had expired he deemed it unsafe to return home he therefore attached himself to Colonel Philip Alston who was then in the Army of General Greene (but without any command being nearly there for his personal safety) he applied to the Governor to raise a volunteer Corps of horsemen upon the same principle of Luttrell which has just been described and obtained the authority to do so.

3rd tour 1781 This declarant entered the service of the United States the third time in the month of April 1781 he turned out as a volunteer for three months and joined his old Captain Jacob Duckworth and his a Lieutenant Joseph Dye his Ensign's name was Francis Danly and the above named Colonel Philip Alston having obtain the authority to raise this Corps from the Governor of North Carolina had the supreme command and fixed his head quarters at his own plantation in Cumberland County North Carolina at which place this declarant entered as above stated we were mounted as before (under Colonel Luttrell) furnishing horses & all ourselves our duties were of the most arduous kind during the whole of this tour. Wilmington was occupied by the enemy in rate force General Greene had passed on to the South and the Tories were in a restless state of fermentation occasionally rising in parties and committing the most horrid cruelties thus were we continually engaged in marches and night expeditions for the suppression of the Tories whilst our main quarters were At Colonel Alston's plantation in Cumberland County. Amongst other Tories there was a celebrated Colonel Fanning [David Fanning] who annoyed our district of North Carolina very much at this time by skulking about and pouncing upon our chief men taking them prisoners and carrying them off to Wilmington and delivering them to the enemy who would keep them in prison we had many races after the celebrated partisan but he always eluded our pursuit and uniformly escaped finally about the beginning of August 1781 Fanning nearly surprised us and our position at Alston's when a portion of our Corps was absent and Colonel Alston surrendered to him on capitulation after a smart defense in which this declarant was wounded by a rifle ball through the right wrist which has disabled him ever since. The surrender of Colonel Alston put an end to our tour which it already lasted nearly 4 months necessity This together after the three months had expired. This tour ended in August 1781 by the capitulation of our party to Colonel Fanning we had no written discharges although we served out our tours. The calamitous state of the times admitted to no formalities.

4th Tour 1781. This declarant entered the service of the United States the fourth time under the following circumstances Captain William Seals obtained a party from the Governor of North Carolina upon the same principle of those named in my second & third tours and this declarant joined the said Captain William Seals as a volunteer mounted riflemen for a three months tour of duty furnishing his horse etc. as before. William Seals was his Captain & his old friend Hopkins Dye Lieutenant our head quarters was at the plantation of Captain Seals and this declarant commenced this tour in the month of October 1781 as soon as his wound was healed and was engaged as in the last tour in putting down and punishing the Tories whilst engaged in this tour Colonel John Cleveland passed by our station at Seals' with Major Hargrove & a large party of Whigs returning from and expedition down the Cape Fear & this declarant & Captain Seals' Company went with Colonel Cleveland on an expedition against the Tories up the Yadkin but the Tories began now to be more quiet and submissive and did not give us so much trouble and re-return to our station in Cumberland County North Carolina where we remained until our tour expired and this declarant was discharged in the month of January 1782 – he received a written discharge from Captain Seals but it is long since lost. Thus this declarant served nearly 13

months and all.

This declarant here with sends his two former declarations marked A & B – he has no documentary evidence of his services and he knows of no living witnesses by whom he can prove his services and he states that he is unable from indisposition and infirmity to attend court for the purpose of making his declaration. He hereby relinquishes every claim to any pension or annuity except the present and declares his name is not on the pension roll of any State or territory whatever he states that he was born as above in Cumberland County North Carolina where he lived until the year 1805 – he then moved to Williamson County Tennessee where he lived two years then he moved to Maury County Tennessee where he lived until the year 1830 & from there he moved to Hickman County Kentucky near the Graves County line and he has one son living in Graves & the other in Hickman⁶ and he lives now alternately at their houses. He states that Amos Goad, James [illegible], John Lee, Robert D. Lockridge & William Paterson are his neighbors who can testify as to his character for veracity and his reputation of having been a soldier of the revolution.

S/ Stephen Collins

[Levi Calvert, a clergyman, and Amos Goad gave the standard supporting affidavit.]

[Veteran was pensioned at the rate of \$40 per annum commencing March 4th, 1831, full one-year service as a private in the North Carolina militia.]

⁶ A letter in the file indicates that the name of the son living in Hickman County was William Collins and the name of the son living in Graves County was Jeremiah Collins.

threatened him. They entered into conversation, which ended in a declaration made by Fanning, that he would retain the officer until his men were returned. A soldier was immediately despatched for Fanning's men, and upon their return to camp the officer and British soldiers were discharged."

CAPTURE OF COLONEL PHILIP ALSTON.

Immediately after his return he made his famous attack on the house of Colonel Philip Alston, who lived in the south-west corner of Chatham county, and in a bend of the river, on the north side, called the Horse Shoe. On his return from Wilmington, he encamped at Cross Hill, near the present town of Carthage, and on the place then, or afterwards occupied by Mrs. Glascock. There he received information that there was a party of men at Col. Alston's, and he resolved to attack them. Alston, with a good deal of the daring and reckless character about him, had been very severe on the Tories, especially during the early part of the war; and now, when Fanning seemed to be carrying every thing before him, and when no Whig in that region could feel safe in his own house a single night unprotected, he had more cause of apprehension than many others. He may, therefore, have had these men simply to protect his house from the depredations of these freebooters; but, according to my information, Fanning was informed that he was raising a body of men for the

purpose of attacking him ; and therefore he resolved to take him by surprise, and before he could be fully prepared even for defence.

Such was the reason assigned in McBride's papers for the attack on Alston's house ; but I have recently received a communication from a correspondent who lives in the Scotch region, and in whose judgment and careful investigations I have much confidence, in which he gives, in substance, the following account : Colonel Wade, with a hundred mounted men, had been through the region, watered by the tributaries of Drowning's creek and the Raft swamp, taking vengeance on the Tories for some injuries which he had lately received from them. Among others, he made a visit to Kenneth Black, a man in comfortable circumstances, but a Tory ; and not long after he left, Colonel Fanning came along, going South, with about a dozen Whig prisoners, among whom was a lawyer by the name of Lightwood. Fanning stayed all night at the house of his friend Black, and was very kindly entertained. Next morning after breakfast, he resumed his march, and Black accompanied him for a few miles, as a pilot. Fanning's horse had been so badly foundered that he was unfit to travel, and at parting, he and Black exchanged horses. When returning home, on the north side of Ray's mill creek, he met Colonel Alston, with a number of men, in pursuit of Fanning, and for the purpose of rescuing the prisoners. As soon as he saw them, he turned up the creek and attempted to escape on Fanning's foun-

dered horse. They discovered and pursued him, shot at and wounded him; but he went on some two hundred yards farther, into the edge of the swamp, and then fell with his face on the ground. When they came up they smashed his head with the butt of his own gun, and when begging for his life.

Alston, finding that it was useless, did not continue the pursuit very far; but, on his return next morning, he called at Black's and told Mrs. Black how some of his men had killed her husband, for which he expressed much regret. Thence he went to a neighbor's house, where old Hector McNeill (not the Colonel,) and John Buchan were engaged in making the coffin. Alston had sold a negro woman to McNeill, but not having sold her husband with her, he had run away, and he accused McNeill of harboring him. He snapped a pistol two or three times at his head and then carried him off a prisoner, telling him that if the negro was not returned by such a day, he would hang him. Mrs. McNeill engaged her own negro man to catch the runaway, which he did; and then she, in company with another lady, took the negro home to his master, confined and guarded by her own negro man. Her husband was then released; and, as both parties viewed each other with distrust, Alston was probably confirmed in his former suspicion.

If I am not mistaken in the localities mentioned by my informant, the transactions above related took place in the south or south-west part of Moore county; and if so, Fanning at this time must have had his head

quarters at or not far from Cross Hill, where I had always understood he had them. Where he had got his prisoners is not known; but as Alston was endeavoring to rescue them, it is probable that they were from his region of country. Nor is it known to what point he was aiming to take them. My informant says, playfully, that he was taking them to his "Pravo" or "Caboos," in South Carolina; but we presume that he either took them to Wilmington, or gave them into the hands of some of his Tory friends who carried them away and delivered them to the British. He soon returned, however, and went to the house of Mrs. Black, where he was informed of all that had been done, and the facts, we may suppose, were feelingly described, with all their aggravating circumstances. When he learned that Alston had pursued him; that he had carried away McNeill as a prisoner; that he had killed his friend Black, who had received him so hospitably only a few nights before; that he killed two beeves for his entertainment, he became desperately enraged, and mustering all the force he could, set off forthwith for Alston's house. What number of men he had is not known; but, if he had not his full complement, they were increasing every day.

At this time, when flushed by so many victories, and confident of success, it made but little difference with him whether his enemy outnumbered him two to one, or was fortified as by the rocks of Gibraltar. He only wanted to know that there was an enemy within striking distance, and he anticipated the victory as

already gained. On receiving intelligence, therefore, of the party at Alston's house, he immediately set out; and as the river had been a little swelled by a rain, he directed his course to the north-west for a few miles and then turned to the right, crossed the river at Dickerson's ford, three or four miles above Alston's, and went down on the north side. They arrived on the premises about day-break on Sunday morning, August 5th, and immediately commenced the attack. The sentinels, being asleep, were taken by surprise, and made prisoners. Those at the gate, on the opposite side of the enclosure, were fired on, but not being killed or badly wounded, they ran into the porch where most of the other party were lying asleep. They too were fired on; but as soon as they could get into the house, the doors were fastened and all the preparation for defence was made that could be made at the moment. The windows were soon demolished; and many of the balls passing through the plank, killed or wounded the men inside.

The house was a two story framed house; and being weatherboarded, ceiled and painted, was one of the best houses then to be seen in that part of the country. It stands now just as it did then, with the exception of some additions, and still bears all the marks of war that it had when left by Fanning. On the west side was a large porch, one end of which had been made into a bed room, with a door opening into the hall; and this was the room usually occupied by Mrs. Alston and her husband. She now kept her bed, which was thought to be the safest place for her;

and her two little children were put up into the chimney. This was done by putting a small table or bench in the fire-place, for them to stand on, which was about as high as the front part; and thus they were entirely beyond the reach of the bullets.

A few rods from the house, on every side, was a strong rail fence, behind which Fanning posted his men and commenced a brisk firing, which was returned by the party in the house, and kept up, without much effect on either side, until after the middle of the day. There was among the assailants, a lieutenant from the British army by the name of McKay, or as, I am told, it was then pronounced and is now written, McCoy, who had either returned with Fanning from Wilmington, or, according to my authority, had been sent by Major Craig, probably for the purpose of observing the state of things in the country whence Fanning had taken so many prisoners, and being in Fanning's camp when the news came of the party at Alstons, he promptly joined the expedition.

Having been accustomed to the use of the bayonet and to a rush when a place was to be taken by assault, he became impatient at this mode of attack, which seemed likely to accomplish nothing, and he told Fanning that if he would give him the command he would take the house in a few minutes. Fanning promptly granted his request, and he as promptly entered on the execution of his purpose. As the plan was for all to rush up, burst open the doors and enter, *pell mell*, he started first and ordered the rest

to follow him, which they did without hesitation, and some of them *pari passu*; but as he jumped over the fence and alighted on the ground, a rifle ball entered his heart, and he fell dead on the spot. Most of those who had got over the fence or were still on it were more or less wounded, and they retreated to their former position behind the fence. Foiled in this unfortunate effort, and driven back with loss, the genius of Fanning, ever fertile in expedients, was now busy in contriving some way to accomplish by stratagem what he had failed to effect by force; and he first bribed a free negro to set the house on fire at the far side where it was supposed he could do it without being observed; but Alston having noticed Fanning talking to the negro, or seeing the negro go round, and suspecting his design, went to the window and shot him when in the very act of applying the fire. The negro was not killed, but severely wounded. During all this time only one or two had been killed in the house, and four or five wounded; but Fanning's loss in killed and wounded was more than double. After the failure of his plan with the free negro, an almost incessant fire, on both sides, was kept up for some time, but still without much effect; and through the whole of this fierce conflict thus far, Mrs. Alston had been in her bed and had remained unhurt, though the weatherboarding and ceiling were riddled with the bullets, which remain to this day as they were then; and some of them must have passed not more than two feet above her when she lay in the bed.

After such a protracted conflict and with so much loss to himself, Fanning began to feel discouraged; and either from the apparent hopelessness of his cause, or from an apprehension that the report of the guns might alarm the country and bring a Whig force upon him too great for his strength, he was on the point of abandoning the enterprise and drawing off his men, when he or some of his men fortunately discovered a large ox cart in the barn yard, a few rods in their rear; and with this he resolved to make his last effort. He ordered them to fill it with hay or straw, and bring it up, intending to set it on fire and run it up to the house. If he could burn the house they would be obliged to surrender, and his end would be accomplished.

Several of the men promptly volunteered their services; the fire was brought; and they were about ready for the operation. The plan was to run up the cart with its load, tail foremost, and thus keep it between them and the house, so that the bullets could not reach them. Alston, perceiving their design, and knowing well, that defended as they would be, by the cart, it would be impossible to shoot them, concluded that their only chance was to capitulate; but how was it to be done? The men all believed that if any of them ventured to go outside of the house, instant death would be the consequence, though the flag of peace were waving over their head; and if Alston himself went out, no matter under what circumstances, or who might be with him, he would be picked out and made the first victim. In this perilous and critical moment. Mrs. Alston came out of her bed room or stood in the

door; and with perfect composure, requested them to commit this business to her. At first, the men all objected, and particularly her husband, who thought it very improbable that Fanning, under all the circumstances, would respect even a lady of her standing, though a wife and a mother, and bearing the sacred emblem of peace; but, as she insisted on it, they finally consented. A man may brave danger with deliberate courage, like a hero on the field of battle, where all the intense excitements of the conflict, and the hope of victory are bearing upon him; he may meet death with a kind of defiance, like a savage or a desperado; he may die with tranquility like a patriot, or with resignation and hope, like a Christian; but such serenity of mind, such calm and entire self-possession, such mild and dignified firmness in moments of sudden and extreme peril, when life or death is seen to depend both on what is done and how it is done, is peculiar to woman. Mrs. Alston, raising a white flag, opened the door and went out on the step, where she paused for a moment to see if she could discover any indications of the treatment which she might expect to receive.

As soon as Fanning saw her, he called to her to meet him half-way, which she did; and then, in a calm, dignified and womanly manner, said to him:—"We will surrender, sir, on condition that no one shall be injured; otherwise we will make the best defence we can; and, if need be, sell our lives as dearly as possible." Fanning, who could sometimes respect true courage, whether in man or woman, promptly

agreed to the proposal, and honorably kept his word. The men all then surrendered and were immediately paroled.

In the papers of Judge Murphy, as given in the University Magazine, it is stated that during the fight, Capt. Andrews, a British officer, who had accompanied Fanning from Wilmington, having climbed up the fence that he might shoot with more effect through a window of the house, as he stood on the fence, one of the men in the house shot him through the head; and I have stated that Lieutenant McKay, from the British army was killed. As these accounts are all traditionary, an exact agreement in every particular is hardly to be expected; but in this case both may be true. There may have been a Captain Andrews and also a Lieutenant McKay present, as officers from the British army, both of whom were killed; for such was Fanning's success at this time, that it would not be at all strange if two or more of the British officers should be with him on any occasion of the kind; and then there were more killed than we would gather from Judge Murphy's account. Next morning after the fight, eight were buried on the brow of the hill, a few rods from the house; and whether any of the wounded afterwards died of their wounds, I have not learned, but probably they did. Most of the dead were of Fanning's party; For only two, or at most three, of Alston's men were killed. According to the statements which I have received, Alston had a little over twenty, and Fanning somewhere about thirty men; but Judge Murphy says that

Fanning had only twenty-four men including Captain Andrews, and that twenty-six men surrendered to him. I have no disposition to question the correctness of this statement, but it seems a little strange, that with such a disparity of numbers in their favor, Alston and his party, even if driven to extremity by having the house set on fire, should be unwilling to meet their enemies in open combat. My information was obtained partly from the papers of Mr. McBride and partly from Dr. Chalmers, who now lives in the house which was then occupied by Col. Alston. In addition to the reports or traditions of the neighborhood, Dr. Chalmers, two or three summers ago, travelled with his family through the State of Tennessee and became acquainted with the sons of Col. Alston, from whom he got a statement of the whole transaction. Col. Alston, himself, lived only a short time after the war, having been killed, as I was informed, by a negro whom he had treated with severity or provoked in some way; and the children were probably too young at the time to have, in after life, a very distinct recollection of the scene; but they must have often heard the facts related by their mother. John Spears, who lived down the river, and was wounded in Alston's house, when he returned urged Captain Cunningham, who had a company of Whigs then under his command, to pursue Fanning; but he declined; and Judge Murphy says, that according to report, "a company of Whigs under Capt. Duck were lying near Alston's house and heard the firing from the morning till evening and feared to come to Alston's relief.

Letter from General John Butler to Governor Burke, John Butler, 1781

Mount Pleasant, 10 August, 1781

Sir: The Tories in the lower part of Orange have of late been very troublesome in robbing people of their arms and plundering horses, so that I thought it absolutely necessary that some standing force should be raised to act against them. I have accordingly ordered Captain Allen, of New Hope, to raise volunteers, twenty-five foot and twenty-five horse, to serve three months. The company stationed at Hillsborough to guard that post will be discharged on the 17th, and the necessity of keeping a guard there, as well for the purpose of guarding the goal as the public stores is suggested to me...

I wish to be advised whether to raise another guard by draught or to discontinue it in the future. Last Sunday morning the Tory Captain Fanning attacked Col. Alston, at his own house, on Deep River, near the Iron Works, Alston, who had only between 15 or 20 men, and being surprised, took refuge in the house, which was only of clapboards and after some firing, was obliged to surrender prisoners of war. He had seven men wounded, and Fanning had one or two killed. On notice of this, I ordered Maj. O'Neal, of this county, to reinforce Major Cage, of Chatham, which he did on the 8th inst. They joined in the upper end of Chatham. Their numbers when they joined were 123 privates. Fanning had crossed Deep River the night before at Buffaloe Ford, moving towards the cross-roads in Randolph county. His numbers are uncertain, but I suppose they are uncertain, but I suppose they are not one hundred. The whole will be sufficient, I hope, for the Tory Party. All these things I submit to your Excellency...

John Butler

To His Excellency Gov. Burke