

Kings Mountain and Its Heroes by Dr. Lyman C. Draper, LL. D., 1881, Peter G. Thomson; reprinted 1969 by The Overmountain Press, Johnson City, Tennessee.

Chapter V; pages 84-89

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When Colonel McDowell became convinced that Ferguson's movement to the north-western portion of South Carolina, threatened the invasion of the North Province also, he not only promptly raised what force he could from the sparsely populated settlements, on the heads of Catawba, Broad and Pacolet rivers, to take post in the enemy's front and watch his operations; but dispatched a messenger with this alarming intelligence to Colonels John Sevier and Isaac Shelby, on Watauga and Holston, those over-mountain regions, then a portion of North Carolina, but now of East Tennessee; urging those noted border leaders to bring to his aid all the riflemen they could, and as soon as possible. Sevier, unable to leave his frontier exposed to the inroads of the Cherokees, responded at once to the appeal, by sending a part of his regiment under Major Charles Robertson; and Shelby, being more remote, and having been absent on a surveying tour, was a few days later, but joined McDowell, at the head of two hundred mounted riflemen, about the twenty-fifth of July, at his camp near the Cherokee Ford of Broad river.

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Colonel Clarke did not long remain in Georgia. While there, he and his associates were necessarily compelled to secrete themselves in the woods, privately supplied with food by their friends. This mode of life was irksome, and soon became almost insupportable, without the least prospect of accomplishing anything beneficial to the public. The regiment was re-assembled, in augmented numbers, when, by a general desire, Colonel Clarke led them along the eastern slope of the mountains, directing their course towards North Carolina, where they could unite with others, and render their services useful to their country. Without mishap or adventure, they were joined by Colonel Jones, as they neared the region where they expected to find friends in the field. Clarke was soon after joined by the brave Captain James McCall, with about twenty men, from the region of Ninety Six. For want of confidence in Colonel McDowell's activity, or from some other cause, Clarke pushed on, and joined Sumter on or near the Catawba.

The story of the captivity of Captain Patrick Moore, a noted Loyalist, now claims our attention. He had probably escaped from the slaughter at Ramsour's Mill, on the twentieth of June, when his brother, Colonel John Moore safely retired to Camden. Anxious for the capture of Captain Moore, Major Joseph Dickson and Captain William Johnston were sent out, in the fore part of July, with a party to apprehend this noted Tory leader, and others of his ilk, if they could be found. The veteran Captain Samuel Martin, who had served in the old French and Indian war, was one of the party. On Lawson's Fork, of Pacolet river, near the Old Iron Works, since Bivingsville, and now known as Glendale, the parties met, and a skirmish ensued, in which Captain Johnston and the Tory leader had a personal encounter. Moore was at length*

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overpowered and captured; but in the desperate contest, Johnston received several sword wounds on his head, and on the thumb of his right hand. While bearing his prisoner towards the Whig lines, a short distance away, he was rapidly approached by several British troopers. Quickly attempting to fire his loaded musket at his pursuers, it unfortunately missed, in consequence of the blood flowing from his wounded thumb, and wetting his priming. This misfortune on his part enabled his prisoner to escape; and, perceiving his own dangerous and defenseless condition, he promptly availed himself of a friendly thicket at his side, eluded his pursuers, and shortly after joined his command.

At this time, or soon after, Moore had command of Fort Anderson, or Thicketty Fort, as it was more generally called, situated a quarter of a mile north of Goucher Creek, and two and a half miles above the mouth of this small water-course, which empties into Thicketty Creek, a western tributary of Broad river, uniting with that stream a few miles above its junction with Pacolet. It was a strong fortress, built a few years before for defense against the Cherokees, and was surrounded by a strong abatis, well fitted for a vigorous defense. It became a great place of resort and protection for Tory parties. They would sally forth from Thicketty Fort, and plunder Whig families in every direction--so that women and children were often left without clothing, shoes, bread, meat, or salt.

In the absence of Captain Nathaniel Jeffries, of that region, one of these plundering parties visited his house, appropriated such articles as they chose, built a fire on the floor, abused Mrs. Jeffries as the meanest of all Rebels, and drove off the horses and cattle. On another occasion, the house of Samuel McJunkin, in Union District, a warm patriot, but too old for active military service, was visited by a party under Patrick Moore. They stayed all

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night; and, when about to depart, stripped the family of bed-clothes and wearing apparel. A noted Tory, Bill Haynesworth, seized a bed-quilt, and placed it upon his horse, when McJunkin's sturdy daughter, Jane, snatched it, and a struggle ensued for the possession. The soldiers amused themselves by exclaiming -- " Well done, woman!" -- "Well done, Bill ! " For once Moore's gallantry predominated over his love of plunder; and he swore roundly if Jane could take the quilt from Haynesworth, she should have it. Presently in the fierce contest, Bill's feet came in contact with some dirty slime in the yard, and slipped from under him, and he lay prostrate and panting on the ground. Jane, quick as thought, placed one foot upon his breast, and wresting the quilt from his grasp, retired in triumph, while poor Bill sneaked off defeated and crest-fallen. This brave woman was the sister of Major McJunkin.

Nor was Miss Nancy Jackson, who lived in the Irish Settlement, near Fair Forest creek, less demonstrative in defense of her rights; for she kicked a Tory down the stairs as he was descending, loaded with plunder. In his rage, he threatened to send the Hessian troops there the next day, which obliged the heroic girl to take refuge with an acquaintance several miles distant.

The intrepid Sumter, hearing of Ferguson's inroads beyond Broad river, directed Colonel Clarke and his Georgians, together with such persons in his camp as resided in that region, and desired to aid in its protection, to repair to that quarter. Captain William Smith, of Spartanburg, and his company, availed themselves of this privilege. Arriving at the Cherokee Ford, they met Colonel

McDowell, when Colonel Shelby, together with Colonel Clarke, Colonel Andrew Hampton and Major Charles Robertson, of Sevier's regiment, were detached with six hundred men, to surprise Thicketty Fort, some twenty

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miles distant. They took up the line of march at sunset, and surrounded the post at day-break the next morning. Colonel Shelby sent in Captain William Cocke, a volunteer – in after years, a United States Senator from Tennessee – to make a peremptory demand for the surrender of the garrison; to which Moore replied that he would defend the place to the last extremity. Shelby then drew in his lines to within musket shot of the enemy all around, with a full determination to make an assault.

Shelby's gallant ¹¹ six hundred " made so formidable an appearance, that on a second message, accompanied, we may well suppose, with words of intimidation, Moore, perhaps fearing another Ramsour's Mill onslaught, relented, and proposed to surrender, on condition that the garrison be paroled not to serve again during the war, unless exchanged, which was acceded to – the more readily, as the Americans did not care to be encumbered with prisoners. Thus ninety-three Loyalists, with one British Sergeant-Major, stationed there to discipline them, surrendered themselves without firing a gun; and among the trophies of victory were two hundred and fifty stand of arms, all loaded with ball and buck-shot, and so arranged at the port-holes, with their abundant supplies., that they could, had a Ferguson, a Dunlap, or a De Peyster been at their head, have resisted double the number of their assailants.*

Among the spoils taken at King's Mountain, was the fragment of a letter, without date or signature – probably a

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copy of a dispatch from Ferguson to Lord Cornwallis – in which this account is given of Thicketty Fort, Moore, and his surrender of the place: "It had an upper line of loopholes, and was surrounded by a very strong abatis, with only a small wicket to enter by. It had been put in thorough repair at the request of the garrison, which consisted of neighboring militia that had come to [the fort] ; and was defended by eighty men against two or three hundred banditti without cannon, and each man was of opinion that it was impossible [for the Rebels to take it.] The officer next in command, and all the others, gave their opinion for defending it, and agree in their account that Patrick Moore, after proposing a surrender, acquiesced in their opinion, and offered to go and signify as much to the Rebels, but returned with some Rebel officers, whom he put in possession of the gate and place, who were instantly followed by their men, and the fort full of Rebels, to the surprise of the garrison. He plead cowardice, I understand."

The capture of Thicketty Fort occurred on Sunday, the thirtieth of July, as the connecting circumstances indicate, and Lieutenant Allaire's Diary proves. Shelby and his men, loaded with the spoils of victory, returned at once to McDowell's camp near the Cherokee Ford.

Reference Information at Bottom of Page 86

Hunter's Sketches of Western North Carolina, 242; Pension statement of Capt. Samuel Martin

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MS. Saye papers; Saye's Memoir of McJunkin; Mrs. Ellet's Women of the Revolution, I, 162

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This is Shelby's statement; the MS. Cocke papers say "one hundred and fifty stand of arms were taken."

The leading facts relative to the capture of Thicketty Fort are taken from Haywood's *History of Tennessee*, 64; Ramsey's *Annals of Tennessee*, 214; Memoir of Shelby, in *National Portrait Gallery*, written by Colonel Charles S. Todd, Shelby's son-in-law, and which appeared, revised, in the *Western Monthly Magazine*, in 1836; Breazeale's *Life as it Is*, 50—all which statements closely follow a MS. account written by Shelby himself; MS. statement, preserved among the Saye papers, of John Jeffries, son of the plundered woman mentioned in the narrative; MS. papers of Hon. William Cocke furnish the name of the fort; MS. pension statements of William Smith, of Lincoln county, Tennessee, Alex. McFadden, of Rutherford county, North Carolina, and John Clark, of Washington county, Tennessee, corroborating, in a general way, the facts of the capture; and in a personal interview with Silas McBee, of Pontotoc county, Mississippi, in 1842, he confirmed Shelby's statement that ninety-four was the number of Moore's party captured. McBee lived on Thicketty at the time of the capture of Moore and his men.