

Letter from Dr. G. W. Michael of Lincolnton,  
North Carolina to Dr. Lyman Draper  
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October 13, 1880

Lincolnton, N. C. October 13, 1880

Lyman C. Draper, Esq.

I have been in this place a few days and learned from the post master that you have been endeavoring unsuccessfully to get information from an old lady by the name of Roberts who was supposed to be a daughter of Lt. Col. John Moore. I concluded to visit her and get what I could from her for you. I found her eight miles west of this place, beyond Indian Creek. Her husband's father's mother was a sister of Lt. Col. Moore. She said that it was reported that Col. Moore was hanged after the battle near Salisbury—but afterwards this was contradicted and it is believed that he went to England. Mrs. Roberts who is about 80 year of age knew nothing more ,but told me her son, John H. knew all about the matter and advised me to see him and informed me that he had gone to Cherryville. I went to Cherryville and learned that he had left for home; I followed and overtook him on the way and got the following statement from him.

“Lieut. Col. John Moore was the son of Moses Moore who [Moses] was born in Carlisle, England and came to the U. S. in 1745 in company with Maurice Roberts. He married Miss Winston and settled near Jamestown, Va. In 1753 he moved to Tryon, afterwards Lincoln, and now Gaston County (8 miles west of Lincolnton). He had four children, 2 sons and 2 daughters. The sons were John and Hugh L. Moore.

John was educated in Granville County, NC. He joined the British Army in Va in 1778 and was made Capt. and afterwards promoted to Lieut. Colonel. He was sent to Indian Creek in Tryon County where his father lived to muster up all the Loyalists that he could. He was encamped about half a mile west of his father's house near a branch which is still called Camp Branch. From this place he moved about 6 miles nearby north to a place which has been known every since as Tory Branch; here he gathered about 400 more Loyalists. While he was at this place, he learned that Col. Locke was at the head of a Whig force which was detached from another body under Gen. Rutherford, and he determined to attack him. He moved to Ramsour's Mill and camped over night and was himself attacked by Locke next morning about day light with about an equal force. The field was thoroughly contested for about two hours. Being informed by a courier that Rutherford was near at hand, he withdrew. The {unreadable} at this place was about the same—about 93 on each side. He rallied his men 4 miles off on Clarkes Creek and gave orders for them to return to their homes.

Sometimes afterwards he re-joined Cornwallis; remained with him a short time; resigned his commission, and went to England. Hugh L. (John's brother) was a Captain in the

Battle of Ramsour's Mill. Neither of them married. After the battle at Kings Mountain, their father moved to Florida and died near Tallahassee.

Neither John [Roberts] nor his mother knew anything about Patrick Moore.

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In writing to you some time since from Newton in regard to the McDowells; I might have mentioned an incident connected with the fight on Cane Creek in Burke County. In it was wounded a British Major named Dunlap who was conveyed to Gilberttown. Although called town there was but one citizen there and he lived in a log house. This was the house of a man named Gilbert. When Ferguson retreated, he left Maj. Dunlap with the Gilberts and the old woman murdered him expecting to get gold among his effects. I have seen the blood stains in the old Gilbert house floor made where he was murdered and his grave which is near. I would be glad to know whether you are fully satisfied in regard to the statements made about the McDowell family.

Very truly yours

G. W. Michael, M. D.