

Letter from Mr. John H. Roberts of Cherryville,
North Carolina to Dr. Lyman Draper
Draper's Manuscript 4DD69
No Date Noted

Cherryville, Gaston County, NC

Mr. Draper Sir,

After the Battle of Ramsours, Col. John and Patrick in company with several others making their way to Virginia were attacked at the Nattran (?) Ford on the Yadkin River and scattered. This was the last time that John Moore saw Patrick Moore. A short time after this seven loyalists were captured and hung near Guilford Courthouse. It was thought for a time that John Moore was one of the victims, but in 1785 he wrote to his sister, Hester Roberts, inquiring after his father and his brother, Patrick also stating that he was in Carlisle, England in business with his uncle, Robert Moore. This was the last that was heard of him. As to being with Col. Ferguson, he never was. He left Lord Cornwallis about the time he advanced into the settlements of the Broad River.

Cornwallis' march up the Broad River was slow and cautious. He cross the Broad River at the Cherokee Ford and followed the trail that Campbell went to Kings Mountain up to the Cowpens. Here he met Col. Severe (Sevier), Shelby, and Cleveland in a sharp fight ensued. Cornwallis was taken by surprise. Him and his men soon fled leaving their dead and wounded on the field. He re-crossed the Broad River at Ruff Ford near Ellice's Ferry. Here he left some of his baggage wagons. He marched all night and halted at a place know as the "Hickory Tavern." From this place he marched to Ramsours Mill and camped on the ground where John Moore was defeated. From here he marched to Beatie's Ford on the Catawba River. Here the river was so swollen that he could not affect a crossing. He fell back down the river near Cannons(?) Ford. The third day while crossing the river, he was attacked by Col. Davidson who had with him about four hundred Provincials. Cornwallis succeeded in crossing the river here. Col. Davidson was killed by a rifle shot of a gun said to have been in the hand of a Tory by the name of Hager. Cornwallis preserved his march in the direction of Salisbury. His rear guard was harassed and several of them killed before they reached Kerr's {Unknown} Road. Here they attacked his main force, but their number was so small they soon fell back. The Provincials loss here was five slightly wounded; the {unknown} of Cornwallis thirteen killed and twenty-two wounded.

This is the last that I know of Cornwallis' retreat. This detail is from an old manuscript found among the papers of Capt. Hambright.

Hoping this will be of some service to you. I remain yours

J. H. Roberts