

## XXXVIII

### MOSES MOORE & SONS

Moses Moore came from Carlisle, England, in 1745, in company with his friend, Maurice Roberts, and settled first at Jamestown, Virginia. He married a Miss Winston and lived in Virginia until 1753 and then moved to North Carolina to a site within eight miles of Lincolnton, North Carolina. This couple had four children: John, Hugh, Patrick and a daughter who married \_\_\_\_\_Roberts.

Moses and his three sons were loyalist soldiers during the Revolutionary War. John is the loyalist commander defeated in the battle of Ramsour's Mill in North Carolina.

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Hugh, according to one source, served as a captain in the same battle and the other brother, Patrick, was possibly in the fight.

Hugh married Sara\_\_\_\_\_ and fathered a son he named to honor his brother Patrick. Patrick, the son of Hugh, married Betsy \_\_\_\_\_.

Patrick Moore was born in Virginia. Early in life he settled along side his brother, Hugh, on Thicketty Creek, South Carolina. He married Ann and they named their children Hugh, Betsy, Patsy, and Polly.

Hugh and Patrick lived with their families in present day Cherokee County, S.C., on land just off Thicketty Creek in the Goucher Community. The writer has no knowledge of John's marriage, nor of his family and very little is know about the sister of the three brothers.

Patrick's first military service on record is as an ensign under Lt. William Marshbanks and Capt. John Nuckolls. This unit responded to an order from the commanding officer of Tryon County, N. C., to march against the Cherokee Indians on 9 February 1771. At the time, the area of Thicketty Creek, which is now in Cherokee County, S. C., was thought to be a part of Tryon County, N. C. On this expedition, Patrick served nine days as did many of his neighbors such as: Philip Coleman, Thomas Cole, Hugh Moore (his brother), Matthew Robertson, John Gordilock (Goudelock) and others. Additional

neighbors and friends served only six days on this campaign. They were: Zachariah Gibbs (see Contributory Note X, 101), Hugh Means, Samuel Clowney (Cluney), William Coleman, Thomas Elder, and others. In February 1779, Col. John Moore joined his unit with the force of Col. John Boyd, of old Anson County, N. C., as he passed through the Carolina backcountry on his way to Georgia. Boyd's and Moore's men were marching to join Lt. Col. John Hamilton (see Contributory Note XXXI, 142). Earlier in 1779, Hamilton, a veteran of the battle of Culloden (Scotland) and survivor of the battle of Moore's Creek Bridge (North Carolina, 27 February 1776), had organized a loyalist regiment in Florida. Encouraged by this development, the disgruntled Tories flocked to the King's banner. It is presumed that Patrick Moore and his troops accompanied Col. John Moore, his brother, on this foray. This sizable loyalist contingent was defeated at Kettle Creek, Ga. (14 February 1779) by Col. Andrew Pickens. Col. John Moore succeeded in reaching Col. Hamilton in Georgia and later assisted him in the defense of Savannah. This victory of Pickens prevented any serious rallying of Tories in Georgia and South Carolina for a long time.

Next, Patrick apparently escaped from the slaughter at Ramsour's Mill (12 June 1780) when his brother, Col. John Moore, against the wishes of Lord Cornwallis, preemptorily rallied the Tories. Draper states that the Whigs being anxious to capture Patrick sent out in early July a force commanded by Maj. Joseph Dickson, a former captain under Col. Benjamin Roebuck, and Capt. William Johnson. Moore was well-known by many of the men who pursued him since they had served with him in the colonial Whig militia units against the Indians. The Whigs caught up with the Tory unit commanded by Moore on Lawson's Fork of Pacolet River near the Iron Works. During this encounter, Capt. Johnson and Capt. Moore became involved personally and Johnson subdued Moore, but in the struggle Johnson received several sword blows on the head and the thumb of his right hand was nearly severed. While bearing Moore towards the main Whig body, Johnson was beset by British horsemen. When Johnson raised his rifle to defend himself, the blood flowing from his thumb flowed into the flash pan wetting the powder and rendering the rifle useless except as a club. Johnson used a handy thicket to elude the horsemen, but in so doing lost his control over Moore, who, with the aid of the horsemen, escaped.

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Moore (about this time referred to as colonel) commandeered Fort Thicketty and raised the King's standard. He invited all the loyalists of the region between the Catawba River and the mountains to join him. Hundreds of disaffected up-country settlers joined him, but many fell away when they heard that the Whigs were gathering in huge numbers under Col. Charles McDowell, of Burke County, North Carolina, with the view of sweeping the frontier free of Tories.

Thicketty Fort, sometimes called Anderson's Fort, was located a quarter of a mile north

of Goucher Creek and two and a half miles above the mouth of that small stream where it empties into Thicketty Creek. This fort, which had been built by Col. Andrew Williamson (see Contributory Note VIII, 98) during Cherokee War, was used after the fall of Charles Town by the loyalists as a base from which to conduct their pillage raids. The fort, surrounded by a strong abatis and other vigorous defenses, could be entered only through an opening which was so small that one had to crawl to enter. One man, or a woman, could stand guard inside the entrance with a club and prevent an army from capturing the fort. The Tory raiding parties often left the wives and children of local Whigs serving under Sumter, Williams, and others, without clothing, shoes, bread, salt or meat, and other necessities of life. Thus, the Whigs were eager to rid their families of the wretchedness imposed on them by the nest of villains.

By mid-summer of 1780, the loyalist force in the fort came under the command of Patrick Ferguson, who strengthened it by detaching a small unit of experienced soldiers to strengthen the loyalist militia within the stronghold. Meanwhile, Sumter ordered Clarke to take his group of Georgia Whigs and gather as many patriots as possible who resided near the fort and lay siege to the structure. Clarke found the Whig encampment at Cherokee Ford on Broad River (see Contributory Note LV, 155), where Col. Isaac Shelby, Col. Andrew Hampton, and Maj. Charles Robertson of Sevier's regiment soon joined the camp. These officers, assisted by Capt. William Smith (see Contributory Note XXXIX, 141), one of the local men, led a group of 600 men westward some twenty miles to the fort. Upon arriving early on the morning of 30 July 1780, the Whig officers sent William Cook, a local resident, to demand the peremptory surrender of the fort. Moore's force consisted of a sergeant-major of the American Volunteers, a provincial unit, and 93 loyalists militia. Moore replied that he would defend it to the last extremity. But when he saw the formidable force in front of him with what appeared to be a cannon, he relented and surrendered without firing a shot. For surrendering, Captain Moore was charged by the officer second in command with cowardice and treachery. Colonel Charles McDowell (see Contributory Note III, 86) was not present in person on this occasion, as Chesney states.

Patrick Moore is believed to have been captured by a party of Americans in July 1781 near Ninety-Six and executed, as remains were afterwards found and recognized to be his due to his great height, 6 feet 7 inches. Years later, some of his family stated that he and Colonel John Moore, his noted loyalist brother, went to Great Britain after the war. However, since neither man applied for a British pension, as did almost every loyalist who went to the British Isles after the war, it is a near certainty that both men failed to survive the war. In all probability, all three of Moses Moore's sons died during the war. Near the end of the war, Moses Moore, because of his beliefs and actions, had to flee as a refugee to Florida, where he died in Tallahassee.

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