Pensioners Remember The War
Leora H. McEachern and Ruth Walker

1981 marks the 200th anniversary of the British invasion, capture, and occupation of Wilmington. 1981 Bulletins will be devoted to the Revolutionary War and its aftermath.

Leora McEachern is a well known Bulletin contributor. She served many years as Bulletin editor and is a past president of the LCFHS. Her graveyard record compilations and courses in genealogy have helped many in their search for their ancestors. Recent books include Salt and the Wilmington New Hanover Safety Committee Minutes. She has been a recipient of the Clarndon Award.

Ruth Walker has been an active member of the LCFHS and served on its Board. She was assistant archivist to Mrs. Ida Kellam and has participated in many studies of the Lower Cape Fear's history.

Between 1818 and 1853 the United States Congress approved various acts by which Revolutionary War soldiers or their widows were entitled to apply for pensions. The following depositions are from pension applications of veterans who had served at the Battle of Moore's Creek February 27, 1776, the skirmish at the Big Bridge in January, 1781, the battle or skirmish at Rockfish Bridge August 2, 1781, and who had guarded the Cape Fear River during the years 1776-1781. Heron's Bridge was near where the present bridge crosses the North East River at Castle Hayne and was called the Big Bridge. Great Bridge and Long Bridge. Rockfish Creek Bridge was on the North East River at the dividing line between Duplin County and what is now Pender County. These depositions were made before a judge of the Superior Court or a justice of the peace. Enlistments or drafts were usually for two months, three months, six months or the duration of the war.

THE BATTLE AT MOORE'S CREEK BRIDGE

Josiah Sykes had enlisted in Bladen County at the beginning of the war and his company was kept in New Hanover County "marching about through the County to annoy the Tories and discover their plans. That nothing of importance occurred during his services as volunteer under Capt. Devane except the Battle at Moore's Creek Bridge in the above mentioned County. That Capt. Devane understanding that McCloud [McLeod] with a considerable number of Tories were marching towards the Bridge and intended crossing it, he took the Company to the Bridge, threw up an entrenchment near it, took up a [form] the Bridge and left nothing but the sleepers for them to cross on. That having three brass pieces he placed them in a range with the three sleepers of the Bridge and then kept the men entrench. That very early one morning the Tories arrived. McCloud at the head marched across, upon getting over, he waved his sword around his head, and said 'Come on my boys, the day is our own' when he was instantly shot down, and all those on the sleepers coming over were fired upon & shot, falling off into the Creek. That they attempted three times to come over, but all being killed—who came on the sleepers, they did not attempt it a fourth time, but those of them who were left alive retreated."

Hugh Murphy rendezvoused at Wilmington and on arriving at that place, they were immediately ordered against the Tories under McDonald & McLeod at Cross-Creek (now Fayetteville). . . . (was) ordered on board of a Boat, to take charge of provisions for the Americans under General James Moore at Rockfish Creek, below Fayetteville. They were stopped at Grays Point by a freshet in the River, and could not proceed further with the boat. He and the other two men got on board of a canoe that came down from Rockfish for a supply of provisions and proceeded up the River as far as Elizabeth Town in Bladen County where they ascertained that the Troops under General Moore had arrived. The Tories having crossed the Cape Fear at Campbellton, and were marching towards Wilmington, by way of Black River. He joined his Company, and they immediately descended the River for the purpose of protecting Wilmington from the Tories, but on reaching the mouth of Black River; they ascended the River and landed a little below the Widow Moore's Creek—thence marched to Long Creek, thence back to Calvins Creek; after various marches & countermarches, until they joined the Army under General Caswell between the two creeks. On the evening of the day that General Caswells Troops arrived at the Widow Moores Creek, they marched over the Creek and then threw up an entrenchment at the end of the bridge below—and another a little further off, higher up the creek. The next morning the Tories led by McLeod attempted to force the passage of the Bridge but McLeod having been immediately killed, they were repulsed. After which the Tories dispersed, and the Americans were permitted to return hom to procure a supply of clothing and afterwards to repair to Wilmington."

James Devane [DeVane]: "... embodied at Black River

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LOWER CAPE FEAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.
BULLETIN
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Board Meetings of the Officers and Directors: Letimer House, 4:00 P.M. September 18, November 20, January 15, February 12.

Meetings: All meetings for 1980-81 will be held at Thalian Hall, 305 Princess Street, Wilmington, North Carolina. Please note that all meetings will be held at a new day and time: Sunday at 3:00 P.M. on October 10, 1980 and February 15 and May 17, 1981.

MEETING
Date: Sunday, February 15, 1981
Time: 3:00 P.M.
Place: Thalian Hall
Topic: "Cape Fear Gardens in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries"
Speaker: John Baxton Flowers III, Historical Research Coordinator, Stagville Center Programs

Following the meeting there will be a reception at the Latimer House, 126 South Third Street.

John Baxton Flowers III has written many scholarly articles for journals, newspapers and magazines on North Carolina history and historic preservation. He is the author of Orange Factory, the history of one of North Carolina's earliest textile communities; and with Marguerite Schumann, Bull Durham and Beyond, a touring guide to the city and county of Durham. He is presently working on a history of Lower Wayne County, on the headwaters of the Northeast Cape Fear River.

Mr. Flowers, the founding director of the Stagville Center, is completing a manuscript on the gardens of North Carolina in the 18th century, which is being promoted in the Stagville Center research program. The Stagville Preservation Center is a cooperative venture of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, and the Stagville Center Corporation of North Carolina.

TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The Lower Cape Fear Historical Society has just concluded its most successful candlelight tour and wassail bowl. We had more than 2,400 guests. The Society wishes to thank all who helped make this possible, particularly the Tour Chairman, Mr. Robert Warren. With the monies from this year's tour, the restoration of the servants quarters is now paid in full.

Also, a thank you to Ms. Sandra Cherry for arranging for the Society a successful Holiday tour to New Bern and Tryon Palace.

Mr. Robert Warren's article on Wilmington appeared in the December issue of Antiques. Reprints are available from the Society, $3.00 each.

The Society is very excited about a new book we are doing, a history of Wilmington, for popular readership. You will be hearing more of this as work progresses. We hope to have the book available for Christmas of '82.

Landon B. Anderson, M.D.
President, Lower Cape Fear Historical Society

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

The officers and directors of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society gratefully acknowledge the generous gifts of members and supporters. Many individuals and corporations provided the funds necessary to order Antiques reprints. In addition to these cash gifts, Latimer House has received from Mr. James H. Mann a Britannia hot water platter made by James Dickson, England, ca. 1855. Mr. and Mrs. John L. Saunders of Chapel Hill gave a 19th Century walnut towel rack. This gift was given in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Charles P. Graham. The Saunders also gave the Archives a map executed in London by J. Bew in 1781 which is entitled "Cape Fear River w/ the counties adjacent and the Towns of Brunswick and Wilmington against which Cornwallis detached a part of his army, the 17th day of January last. This map was given in honor of Dr. and Mrs. R. V. Fulk, Jr.

The Archives has also received copies of the John Russell Pope plans for the house of Mrs. Pomroy Nichols. These plans were given by Mrs. Nichols and Mr. Leslie Boney, Jr.

The Archivists are in the process of identifying and cataloging other gifts which will be acknowledged at a later date.

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Bulluck
Phillip Lewis Hall
Virginia Bellamy Ruffin
Pensioners—Continued from Page 1

Chapel and marched from thence to Wilmington, from thence to Rockfish Creek about seven miles below Fayetteville then called Cross Creek—he took boat and went down Cape Fear to its junction with Black River to where Bear Branch empties therein, at which place he disembarked and marched from thence to Long Creek Bridge, that while he was at Long Creek Bridge, he was ordered up to Moores Creek bridge. That when he arrived at Moores Creek bridge, he commenced making entrenchments, and an express immediately came, ordering the forces up to Corbetts ferry, that he thereupon marched on towards Corbetts ferry as far as over Colvins Creek when another express arrived, ordering us back to Moores Creek bridge, that he then marched back to Moores Creek bridge and commenced making entrenchments, a little further off than the first they had made, that Gen. Caswell and his forces arrived there that evening (being the evening before the battle) and crossed over, whereupon the bridge was partly taken up; next morning about twilight the enemy commenced firing at us, that they advanced and undertook to cross the creek in which a few succeeded & among them were Col. McLeod & a Captain Campbell that all who crossed over were killed, that Col. McLeod advanced as far as the first piece of entrenchment that had been made before he was killed, that after the battle he was furloughed and went home where he remained two or three days, that he then came to Wilmington where his company rendezvoused.

William Ward rendezvoused at Duplin County Old Court House, marched to Rockfish Creek below Fayetteville, marched to Elizabeth Town, went by boat down the Cape Fear to the Black River, up the Black River to Moores Creek, to Moores Creek Bridge where he landed three or four days before the battle at that place, from thence he marched to Long Creek bridge, that while at Long Creek bridge, an express came from Gen. Caswell to march back to Moores Creek bridge and make entrenchment, that he marched back to Moores Creek bridge and made a short piece of entrenchment near the bridge, when another express came, to march on towards Corbett's Ferry on Black River, that he then marched on towards Corbett's Ferry and got as far as Colvin's Creek, when another express arrived ordering them back to Moores Creek Bridge to make entrenchments for the tories had crossed Black River; that he then marched back to Moores Creek bridge; that he arrived there the day before the battle; that at that evening Gen. Caswell with his army arrived, (having a few pieces of Artillery) on the West side of Moores Creek bridge, that curiosity had attracted him to go over the creek to see the artillery as he had never seen any, that while viewing the artillery a flag was brought to Genl. Caswell from the tories by a Mr. Haburn bearing a paper; that a Captain Vance asked Genl. Caswell if he might kill the bearer of the flag and Genl. Caswell shook his head; that then Genl. Caswell and his army crossed over the bridge and encamped on the east side of the creek; that after Genl. Caswell & his army crossed over, the bridge was partly taken up; that the artillery was fixed that night and pointed to the bridge; that by break of day next morning, the enemy were firing at us across the creek, that they attempted to cross same sounding the bottom of the creek, to ascertain, as was thought, if they could ford it, & some, to pass over the bridge, in which latter, four men succeeded, & among them Col McLeod and Capt Campbell who were killed, and the enemy defeated.

Frederick Rivenburgh: “I crossed Clarendon river, now Cape Fear. We went to the west of the River to stop the Tories from joining Gov. Martin who was lying at Brunswick on the Scorpion, & crossed to the East side & arrived too late for the battle which took place at Moores Creek Bridge.”

James Holland: “This applicant was living near Wilmington in New Hanover County at the beginning of the Rev'ly War & first turned out six months in the Minute service ... this was before the Declaration of Independence, & directly before the King's ship came to Wilmington with a cargo of tea. Was engaged in hauling the ship round town ... We went down about Brunswick & stayed about there & Wilmington. We stood guard. This was before the British took the town & we had one fight with the tories, at Moores Creek. Only one of our men named Jno Grady was killed. Many of the tories were killed.”

Among those who were at the Battle of Moores Creek or who arrived too late to take part in the battle were William Taylor, William New, James Lee, James Lewis, John DeVane Jr., Robert Cook, Joshua Blake, Lt. Col. Thomas Brown, George Peay, Elijah Johnson and James Moore.

GUARDING THE RIVER

The British troops who had been expected to meet the tories at Brunswick Town in February did not arrive in the Cape Fear River until March and April: Sir Henry Clinton from Boston with about four hundred men, Lord Cornwallis with seven regiments and the British fleet under Sir Peter Parker. The approaches to Wilmington had been fortified, breastworks erected around the town, boats sunk in the channel, the North East River fortified and a boom completed over the Cape Fear River at Mount Misery. Many
of the soldiers who had been at the battle at Moores Creek were sent to Wilmington and down the river for guard duty.

Ephraim Powers marched to Wilmington, N.C. thence to Jumping Run about a mile and a half below Wilmington, where he encamped and remained till his two months were out; that he was stationed at Jumping Run for the purpose of preventing the enemy, who were said to be at that time on board their shipping in Cape Fear, below Wilmington, from coming up and taking possession thereof.

James Lewis "Immediately after the defeat of the Tories under McDonald and McLeod at Moores Creek Bridge, he volunteered as a private in a Company of Bladen Militia...

The Company marched first to Wilmington, thence to Jumping Run, where they remained two months and then moved to Caswell's Camps in the immediate vicinity of Wilmington, where they were stationed one month.

Richard Miller "Remained at Wilmington a considerable time watching a part of the British Fleet at Brunswick, 15 miles below Wilmington, watching also and endeavoring to catch the tories from Wilmington, his regiment with others proceeded by Lockwoods Folly and Long Bay Shore to Charleston."

Jacob Wells rendezvoused at Rockfish Bridge, Duplin County and marched "to Jumping Run, 2 miles below Wilmington."

Josiah Sykes "He was next drafted and served three months at Greenfield [Jumping Run] near Wilmington in New Hanover County."

William Ward "...that after the battle at Moores Creek bridge, he marched to Wilmington, N.C.; that he remained in Wilmington a short time, and from thence marched to Lockharts or Lockwoods folly, a creek in Brunswick county, N.C.; that it was said there was a body of Tories stationed there, that when he arrived at Lockharts folly there were no tories there; that four companies marched from Wilmington to Lockharts folly with him. He returned to Wilmington and was discharged. He entered the service in the fall as a volunteer lighthouseman and again marched towards Wilmington, that during this tour he was traversing and scouting the country round about Wilmington; that agallery, laden with the enemy, was decoyed ashore, & a few of them killed, besides one badly wounded who died next day."

John Wheeden "In a company of Duplin Militia...being ordered out to go against the British then on board their Fleet in Cape Fear below Wilmington...that he marched from Duplin to Wilmington, thence to Brunswick County at Orton's Mill, and there stationed awhile."

James Devane [DeVane] After the Battle of Moores Creek he "went home where he remained two or three days, that he then came to Wilmington where his Company rendezvoused, that he was then employed in guarding up and down the Cape Fear to prevent the British from landing who were then on board shipping in the River—that from Wilmington he marched over into Brunswick and encamped at Orton's Mills, that while there and when his six months tour was nearly expired, Col. Lillington told this applicant he must go to work in the public Gun Works near Black River in the upper part of New Hanover County...[where he] continued therein about 12 months."

John Devane, Jr. [DeVane] "...that after the battle [Moores Creek] we were paroled two or three days, then formed again and marched to Wilmington and guarded up and down Cape Fear in the vicinity of Wilmington. In the fall of 1777, as a first lieutenant, he was "stationed at Fort Johnston and served there from that time till July 1780 when he was taken prisoner by the enemy and paroled, his commission taken from him by the enemy and the cockade taken out of his hat—that he was detained a prisoner on board a vessel a few days and then landed, came to Wilmington and the people apprehending he would have the small pox & communicate it compelled him to leave the place and sent to Halfway Bluff on Long Creek, remained there a short time & came home—that said John Devane, Jr. served in Fort Johnston nearly three years as first Lieutenant, and was occasionally sent out to procure additional forces for that station."

Jesse Swinson "...he marched to Old Town Creek in Brunswick County...at that time the enemy were in Cape Fear River opposite that place on board vessels and fired bombs at some of our men."

James Lee "...that after the battle at Moores Creek bridge he was furloughed a few days and went home, that he again rendezvoused in Wilmington and marched into Brunswick County and occupied at Orton's Mills, thence to Snows point from thence back to Orton's Mills, from thence to Lockwoods folly and from thence to Wilmington, from Wilmington he took excursions occasionally down along the River, where the enemy had ships of war at that time."

THE BIG BRIDGE, RUTHERFORD'S MILL, THE BATTLE OF ROCKFISH

Major James Henry Craig with his British forces occupied Wilmington from 29 January until November, 1781. At the time of the Battle of Moores Creek detachments of troops had been sent to guard Heron's Bridge or, as most of the veterans called it, Big Bridge. Sometime afterwards military stores, "Town property", and provisions were stored in a warehouse there. The skirmish at the Big Bridge occurred soon after Major Craig and his forces entered Wilmington.

George Bannerman was drafted in September 1779 and "marched from the Big Bridge in the County aforesaid [New Hanover where he was stationed to Wilmington, from thence back to the Big Bridge, that he was ordered to embody or meet at that place to guard military store consisting of ammunition and provisions deposited there...in January or February, 1781...he marched from Black River in said County where he embarked to the Big Bridge at which place there was a skirmish with the enemy on the east side of the North East River, this applicant being stationed on the west, that from thence he marched to Half-way bluff on Long Creek and there stationed, guards being detached from thence to guard Negro head Point road and Cape Fear and the North East Rivers."

Benjamin Linn was drafted October 15, 1776 and served four months at the North East Bridge guarding public stores. He was in South Carolina on the Pee Dee River "until an express arrived from Wilmington, North Carolina that the English was there, then we were marched back through Lumberton, North Carolina and Fayetteville, North Carolina to the North East Bridge on Cape Fear River in New Hanover County where we had a Battle with the troops under Major Craig."

Joseph Humphrey "...marched into New Hanover County to Rocky Point on the Cape Fear River at Big Bridge—here they lay encamped until joined by Gen. Lillington—The British having made their appearance on the opposite side of the River, Gen. Lillington ordered a company to march down the River and cross the same, whilst another division would cross the bridge & attack the British in front & rear, the British had two large cannon planted facing the bridge, the Lieut whom Gen. Lillington ordered to advance across the bridge refused to do so and the British sentinal..."
having notified them of the advance of the Americans across the river and the great companies[?] having been produced in consequence of or want of cooperation by the other party preparing to cross the bridge, the British brought on a general engagement & soon routed the Americans.”

James Malpass was about one mile below Cheraw Hills in South Carolina where we remained until an express arrived from North Carolina that the English were in the Cape Fear River North Carolina and ordering us back through Fayetteville . . . from thence to the big Bridge in New Hanover County where we were under the command of Coln Brown and General Lillington over on the other side of the river next to the sound up the river near the Bridge we had a Battle[ with the British under the Command of one Major Craig]. Our troops were defeated. We being under Coln Brown who that day was Coln Commander who was wounded in the arm . . . General Lillington did not get over the River to join [the] Army he being on the opposite side from where the Battle was fought.”

Stephen Lillylaw was stationed at the Big Bridge where he remained till the skirmish there, fled home, but in a few days returned to the Big Bridge & remained there a short time before Cornwallis came to Wilmington, served three months in a company of Artillery Commanded by Major Saml Ashe. The Artillery was fixed[?] at Swan's point on the North East River a mile & a half or two miles below the Big Bridge where he remained the most of this Tour.”

James DeVane was a skirmish at the Big Bridge across the North East in New Hanover County in which the Americans retreated, that he took command of his company, at the Big Bridge, where he remained till the skirmish above mentioned, from thence he retreated to . . . a short distance below South Washington, from thence he marched back to the Big Bridge, from thence he was ordered with his company to Halfway Bluff on Long Creek to guard the negro head point road that at halfway bluff he obtained leave of absence, that about the time he left Halfway Bluff, Cornwallis and his army came to Wilmington, that after the British evacuated Wilmington, this applicant was ordered with a few Soldiers to collect the wives and children of the Tories and carry them to Wilmington, that he found the execution of this duty so disagreeable that he resolved to desist from it at all hazards, and would choose rather to be cashiered than to perform a duty so repulsive to his feelings.

Among others at this skirmish were Col. Thomas Brown, David Clark, Joshua Blake, Jacob Wells, James Lee and John Wheeler.

George Bannerman* After having remained there [Halfway bluff] two months, he was then selected and detached in a company under Captain James Moore commander of a piece of Artillery to Rocky Point Ferry where he joined General Lillington’s Army, thence to Governor Ashe’s plantation, thence to Rutherford’s Mills and there stationed about three weeks.”

William Ward . . . from Duplin Old Court House he marched to Jumping Run, about two miles below Wilmington; that while there he assisted in throwing up intrenchments; that there, two Frenchmen, who were regular officers viz Col Malmady and Major DeBaron, selected seventy men and this applicant among them to go with their mounted infantry seventy in number, and seventy mounted men called Knock-em-down men, armed with pistols and white oak staff; that from Jumping Run he marched with them to Harrison’s Creek which runs into the North East, that while at Harrison’s Creek he heard that Lord Cornwallis & Colonel Tarlton, with their forces, were in Wilmington, that this was in the spring of the year, before Lord Cornwallis surrendered in the fall; that while at Harrison’s Creek, a detachment, under the command of Major DeBaron, marched down to Wilmington to reconnoiter the enemy that from Harrison’s Creek he marched to Rutherford’s Mill across Holly Shelter creek which runs into North East; that he remained there three days, making intrenchments, expecting Lord Cornwallis & Col Tarlton with their army along that way; that here two Frenchmen fell in with them, one an officer Capt. Harwood who took command of the artillery, there being two pieces found there when he arrived, that this was not long after the battle at Guilford, and that he understood that these Frenchmen had been in that battle.”

Frederick Rivenbark went down below Wilmington to Jumping Run then marched to Rutherford’s Mill.

Jacob Wells . . . was in one battle at Rockfish Bridge the dividing line between New Hanover [now Pender] and Duplin Counties, while in this service, that this battle was fought on the third day of August, that he retreated to Island Creek to a place where John Cook lived, that near this place [Island creek] he was taken prisoner by a party of British then he was carried to Sacocto Bridge where after being kept for several days he was set at liberty but does not know how it was done, but that an American officer came to the British Camp for the purpose of effecting the release of prisoners, which was done, that he had a very good man with him when he was taken prisoner, that the British kept his man and that he had never received any compensation for her.

Daniel Merritt was in a skirmish at Rockfish bridge just above South Washington in New Hanover County, where the Americans were defeated and put to route, being attacked in front by the enemy’s infantry and in rear by their cavalry about at the same time . . . In or about October immediately before the British evacuated Wilmington . . . he marched from Duplin County to Wilmington, that about two days before he arrived there the Enemy had evacuated that place, and the smallpox was prevalent there at that time.”

FOOTNOTES

1. Many of the more than sixty pension applications that were examined for this article are from the collection of Wayne Arnold, Burgaw, N.C. There must have been many more applicants who were stationed in the Lower Cape Fear as Brigadier General James Moore stated that on March 2, 1776 he had about 11,000 men and was to be joined by Colonel Caswell with about 800 more.

2. Josiah Sykes: claim file #5707; enlisted in Bladen County; born in Edgecombe County 5 March probably 1740.

3. Captain John DeVane: was a delegate for New Hanover County to the Continental Congress 1776; married Ann Larkin; with Richard Herring had a gun factory on the Black River; will dated 14 September 1783, probated June Term 1806.

4. Donald McLeod: a captain in the army; commissioned a lieutenant colonel in the North Carolina militia by Governor Josiah Martin.

5. Hugh Murphy; claim file #5904; born 11 November 1752 in Argyleshire, North Britain [Scotland], came to New Hanover County 14 December 1774; Minute Man in a regiment of militia from New Hanover and Duplin Counties.

6. Donald McDonald: a lieutenant colonel in the British army, commissioned a general in the North Carolina militia by Governor Martin.

7. James Moore: commander of the campaign that culminated in the Battle of Moore’s Creek; brigadier general in the Continental army; born 1797, died 9 April, 1777.

8. Richard Caswell: commanded as colonel at Battle of Moore’s Creek; governor of North Carolina 1776-1780 and 1785-1787; born in Maryland 1728, moved to North Carolina 1746, died in Fayetteville 1788, lived near Kinston where he is buried.

9. James DeVane; claim file #5817; entered service in November 1775 in
New Hanover County; commissioned captain in June 1780; son of John DeVane and Ann Larkins, brother of John DeVane, Jr., born 1 August 1737, died 13 May 1846.

10. William Ward: claim file #8708; volunteered in Duplin County; born in Pitt County 20 December 1753, died in Sampson County 15 October 1836.

11. Frederick Rivenbark: claim file #W3257; volunteered in Duplin County; born 15 October 1747, died 21 November 1837, married 15 March 1801 Winifred Jones.

12. James Holland: claim file #W7000; volunteered in New Hanover County; born in New Hanover County about 1747, died in Lenoir County 7 February 1814, died 10 May 1808 Zilphia Boyet in Duplin County.

13. John Gruy of Duplin County was the first North Carolina man killed in regular combat during the Revolutionary War; died 2 March 1776.

14. William Taylor: claim file #7685; volunteered in Duplin County; born in Pitt County 10 February 1757. William New: claim file #57267; enlisted in New Hanover County; born in Richmond County, Virginia 1757. James Lee: claim file #88177; volunteered in New Hanover County; born on the Black River, North Carolina 1760, died 1844. James Lewis: claim file #88441; entered service in Bladen County; born in Bladen County 22 August 1756, died in New Hanover County 8 January 1846. John DeVane, Jr.: claim file #W3961; entered service in John DeVane's company at Black River; son of John DeVane and brother of James DeVane, born 25 December 1755, died 15 June 1820, married 25 October Ann Julia Davis, the widow Evans. Robert Cook: claim file #82033; entered service in New Hanover County; born 1753 or 1754. Joshua Blake: claim file #88074; entered service in Duplin County; born in Craven County 1735. Thomas Brown: claim file #W9745; entered service in Bladen County; appointed lieutenant colonel in 1775; taken prisoner in June 1781, confined in Wilmington until evacuation of Wilmington; son of George and Elizabeth Brown, born 8 November 1747, died 24 November 1814, married 13 January 1788 Lucy Bradley. George Peay: claim file #83673; volunteered in Guilford County. Elijah Johnson: claim file #81060; volunteered in Dobbs County. James Moore: claim file #88999; entered service in New Hanover County; born in New Hanover County in February 1749.

15. Ephraim Powers: claim file #7332; born in Pitt County 11 February 1757; moved to New Hanover County about ten years after the war.


17. Richard Miller: claim file #52803; entered service in Guilford County.

18. Jacob Wells: claim file #8318; entered service in Duplin County; born in New Hanover County 1758, died 10 November 1843, married 1 September 1812 Elizabeth Evans.

19. See footnote 2.

20. See footnote 10.

21. John Wheeler: claim file #5787; entered service in Duplin County; born in Virginia in November 1756; living in New Hanover County when he applied.

22. See footnote 9.

23. Alexander Lillington: brigadier general of North Carolina militia 1776-1783; died 1785 or 1786.


25. Jesse Swinson, Sr.: claim file #7870; enlisted in Duplin County, was "Post Musician"; born in Martin County 1759; "since the war lived in Duplin".


27. Sir James Henry Craig: major in the British army when his forces occupied Wilmington in 1781; born 1749, died 1811; was governor general and commander in chief of Canada in 1807.

28. George Bennett: claim file #50053; entered service in New Hanover County; born in New Hanover County 20 February 1762, died 25 June 1841.

29. Benjamin Larkins: claim file #10224; entered service in New Hanover County; born in New Hanover County 1759.

30. Joseph Humphrey: claim file #85374; enlisted in Onslow County.

31. James Malpass: entered service in New Hanover County; born in New Hanover County near Moore's Creek Bridge 1760.

32. See footnote 14.

33. Stephen Filiway: claim file #84467; enlisted in New Hanover County; born 1763.

34. See footnote 8.

35. David Clark: claim file #80936; entered service in Duplin County; see footnotes 14, 18, 21.

36. See footnote 28.


38. See footnote 10.

39. See footnote 11.

40. See footnote 18.

41. Daniel Merritt: claim file #10497; entered service in Duplin County; born 9 October 1753, died 12 February 1842, married 1 January 1801 Mary Murfree.