Herrall Blackmore: An Unknown Hero of American Independence

(Conclusion)

JAMES H. BLACKMORE

As Christmas approached, the committeemen were faced also with the behavior of the Captain of "the Scorpion," anchored in the Cape Fear River. It was reported that the captain had persuaded one of the harbor pilots, Thomas Bridges, to board his ship "with an intention as it is conjectured, not only to deprive the good people of this colony of all benefits of Trade, but to pilot our enemies up the River when it should be thought expedient to destroy the property of the inhabitants." With H. Blackmore present for the January 5, 1776 meeting, the committee resolved that all pilots of the river be immediately secured and that Col. Moore be requested to take them into his custody. The captain of "the Scorpion" was to be given notice and Thomas Bridges was to be detained. It further was ordered that "the two companies of Militia of this town, appear on the usual place of parading properly armed and accounted on next Monday week, as well as every other inhabitant...and that the Test prescribed by the Provincial Congress be signed." Messrs. Wilkinson and Toomer were ordered to provide "a house in this town as an additional Barrack for the Regulars under the command of Col. Moore, to be appropriated to the use of an Hospital and that nurses be provided to take care of the sick." 19

On January 6, 1776, the minutes of the Safety Committee report that Herrall Blackmore was present and voted to give Mr. W. Campbell "leave to send down two barrels of flour, a tub of butter and some vegetables for His Excellency." Some of these supplies could have come from Mr. Blackmore's store. The committee ordered "that the custom house officers do not clear out any vessels from this port hereafter, without leave from this committee, or some superior power, and that all officers do not clear out any vessels from this port hereafter, without leave from this committee, or some superior power, and that all officers be served with this order." Apparently, "several houses and buildings" had been omitted from a previous evaluation of properties in the town, for a committee was named to complete this work. 20

On January 19th, with "H. Blackmore" being present, Jacob Phelps, a river pilot, was employed with his boat to carry freight and passengers between Wilmington and Brunswick . . . and that the said J. Phelps do not presume to take any passengers or freight, without the leave of one of the two committees of the said towns, or the commanding officers of the forces at Brunswick or Wilmington . . . and that no other person . . . shall have liberty to carry any freight or passengers to Brunswick, without leave of this committee or the commanding officers at Wilmington, to the end that such persons as may have inimical designs against the county, may be prevented from carrying intelligence to the Governor or Ships of War. 21

Also it was ordered that Mr. John Forster was to receive "all the Salt petre, Lead and Brimstone in Wilmington, and that he give receipts for the same, and that 4 5 per lb. be allowed for all salt petre." 22

The actions of the committee did not go unchallenged. A paper, addressed "To those who have a true sense of distributive justice and untrammeled liberty, residents of the borough of Wilmington" and signed by "G Lawyer," was posted on the Court House. A certain Wm Green acknowledged that it was his hand writing and swore that it was copied from a writing given him by Dr. Fallon. H. Blackmore assembled with the other committeemen on Monday, January 15 (1776), and heard Dr. Fallon justify the said paper. The committee denounced the paper as containing "many false and scandalous reflections on this committee, tending to inflame the minds of the people: to create division and dissention among us." Dr. Fallon was to be "kept in close custody." 23

The next day, January 16th, Herrall Blackmore and other committeemen learned that Captain Alexander Maclean had gone down to the ship "Cruizer" and had been with the Governor. It was resolved that "the said Alexander Maclean be sent for, to come before this committee, to answer such breach aforesaid, and give security for his good behaviour." Dr. Fallon was to remain under guard. 24

(continued on page 3)
The President's Message

In this our twentieth year, we are undertaking many exciting and worthwhile projects. We can look forward with a great deal of anticipation and enthusiasm to the coming year. With your efforts, we can expect a year of valuable service to our community.

Our headquarters, the Zebulon Latimer House, opened September first. It will be open September through May on Wednesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Admission is $1.00 for adults and $.25 for students. We are happy to welcome William Whitehead as our official host. During the first week, we had eighty-two guests.

We have received a $10,000 grant from the National Park Service to be used with matching funds from the “Old Wilmington by Candlelight” tour for the preservation of the Latimer House Servants’ Quarters. Work on this preservation project is scheduled to begin in September under the direction of our archaeologist, Dr. Thomas Loftfield, of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Students in his course, Topical Seminar in Historical Archaeology, will be participating in the excavation. Dr. Charles P. Graham, chairman of the preservation project, is diligently working on the development of the project and the grant procedures involved.

The “Old Wilmington by Candlelight” tour will take place on December eleventh and twelfth from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Its purpose is the preservation of the Latimer House Servants’ Quarters. The price of a ticket is $5.00.

“The Wassail Bowl” will be held at the Latimer House on December tenth from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. These tickets will include a wassail, entertainment, and a ticket for the tour. Tickets are limited to 125 people at the cost of $25.00 per person. Purchase will be limited to Society members until November first. Advance tickets are available by writing “Old Wilmington by Candlelight”; P.O. Box 813; Wilmington, N.C. 28401. They may also be purchased at the Latimer House. For information, phone 919-792-0492. “The Wassail Bowl” is a benefit to finance the opening of the Latimer House.

Many projects are planned for the year. I look forward to working with you and solicit your support.

James Robert Warren
President

Form of Bequest

The great need of the Association, in order to render broader and more effective service, is to have funds available for historical research, publications, and restoration of historic sites. For these purposes, it is hoped that interested persons will bequeath to the Association whatever sum or sums of money may be available. The following form is suggested:

To the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Inc., a nonprofit corporation organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina, I give and bequeath the sum of $_____.

This bequest is unrestricted, and the Board of Directors or other governing body may use and expend the same for the benefit of the Lower Cape Fear Historical Society, Inc., in any manner it deems appropriate.

New Members

The Society would like to welcome the following new members:

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Dr. Charles Q. Cherry</td>
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<td>Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lee Scott</td>
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companies should muster their men immediately and "tender the same to every man in Wilmington, without exception, and whoever shall refuse or decline voluntarily to take the said oath, shall, by the Militia officers aforesaid, be disarmed as inimical to the liberties of America."

Apparently this was the last act of the Safety Committee in which Herrall Blackmore was to share, for only one other entry was to use his name. What does the absence of his name from February 9th to June 10th mean? He had been most regular and faithful in all the other meetings. Of course he could have become ill, but in that case there likely would have been some mention of it in their proceedings. He could have changed his mind about his loyalty, but subsequent events disprove that. My guess, and it is only a guess, is that Herrall Blackmore went on a very special mission.

On January 10th, Governor Martin had called upon all loyal subjects to "unite and suppress the rebellion"; plans had been made for these "Tories" to march in a body on Brunswick no later than February 15th in order to assure the safe landing of troops from Boston and Great Britain. Many of the Highlanders at Cross Creek were recent comers to the colony and readily sided with the crown; others had business obligations and ties of sentiment with the mother country. Whereas the younger Kenans were patriots, some of the older ones were not so sure. Herrall Blackmore could have been persuasive with these and many other associates and friends; his absence from the meetings of the Wilmington Safety Committee could have been most significant. He could have been doing some "spiriting up the back counties" for the common cause, or at least he could have pointed out some reasons for not responding to the "royalist" call immediately.

Although Governor Martin had counted on recruiting at least 3,000 loyal troops, only 1,400 men gathered at Cross Creek and followed General MacDonald in his march toward Brunswick on February 18th. But 2,000 patriots under Colonel James Moore brought the Loyalists to a halt at Rockfish Creek; MacDonald tried to bluff his way through with threats and then outwitted Moore by moving his army during the night. Marching from New Bern under Colonel Richard Caswell, the patriots were ordered to meet MacDonald's forces at Corbett's Ferry on the Black River. Again the Tory general had some of his men play the bagpipes and beat the drums while the main force built a bridge upstream and crossed the river on the morning of February 26th. When Colonel Caswell discovered he had been tricked, he ordered his troops on a fast march to Widow Moore's Bridge, just seventeen miles from Wilmington.

When Caswell's army of Patriots arrived, they found another American force under Colonel Alexander Lillington was there already and had begun throwing up earthworks for defense. So Caswell crossed to the other side of the Creek and set up camp, with his back to the creek and to Lillington's army. Scouts from MacDonald's Tories reported to their general that the Whigs had beaten them to the bridge. MacDonald sent messengers into Caswell's camp to demand his surrender and to spy out their condition. Seeing only Caswell's forces, the Loyalists were confident that they could defeat the rebels and so planned an early attack the next morning. Very early, still in the darkness before daybreak, the Loyalists began moving toward the camp fires of Caswell's army, but this time they were the ones to be fooled. The camp was deserted; Caswell had pulled his forces across the bridge and behind Lillington's earthworks.

With the cry "King George and Broad Swords," the Loyalists charged the bridge to find that the boards had been removed and the rafters greased with soap and tallow. Musket fire came from the earthworks, and the Tories fell; another charge, and another volley of bullets. Only a few made it across. Within a very short time (some said three minutes), fifty Tories were killed and wounded; the others turned and fled into the woods to be hunted down and captured. Of this defeated army, about eight hundred and fifty soldiers were permitted to go home upon their promise not to fight again against their fellow countrymen; only their officers were put in jail.

As we said before, we cannot be sure what part Herrall Blackmore played in these events; it may have been none. But his absence from the meetings of the Safety Committee during such a critical time is difficult to explain. James Love, son of Felix Kenan's first wife by a previous marriage, had commanded a company of Duplin patriots during this battle; and James Kenan, Mary Kenan Blackmore's first cousin who had married James Love's sister, emerged as a leader of the revolution in North Carolina. However, notwithstanding his having furnished supplies to the patriots, Felix Kenan had difficulty in concealing his Tory principles. Herrall Blackmore, his son-in-law, might have been instrumental in winning him and other "old country" gentlemen to the American cause, as well as rallying support among farmers and other working folk with whom he as a merchant had business. As a man of considerable wealth, education, travel and influential friends, he must have been a person of influence in his own right, and as he early came to espouse the patriot's cause we can believe he used his influence to win others to that cause or to be slow in giving their strength to that of the American enemy.

Fired by the taste of victory, the delegates at the Provincial Congress meeting in Halifax on April 12th (1776) instructed their delegates to the Continental Congress to concur with any action which might be taken toward independence. These Halifax Resolves were a nudge to the Continental Congress that it was time for it to move.

In May, the British fleet dropped anchor in the Cape Fear River; aboard were troops of Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis. They had been scheduled to arrive in February, but heavy seas had delayed them. Now instead of being welcomed by an aroused loyalist force, they were greeted only by an angry, disappointed Josiah Martin, sulking aboard the "Cruizer." The British troops raided a few houses in Wilmington and burned some of the plantation homes along the river, but their ships soon weighed anchor and sailed south for an attack on Charleston. What a different story would have been told had the Loyalists won at Moore's Creek. Although it was a "small battle," its significance is hard to over-estimate, and Herrall Blackmore's "spiritin" work could have a decisive factor in that victory.

On June 6th (1776), Richard Henry Lee from Virginia arose in the Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, and proposed that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states." The resolution was adopted and a committee was appointed to draw up an appropriate statement. In the meantime the Council of Safety of North Carolina, meeting in Wilmington on June 10th, resolved: "That Mr. Blackmore be requested to furnish Colonel Long for the use of the Continental Troops in this province, with all the Blankets he hath in his Store, for which this Council will give an order to the Public Treasury."
On the 17th of January, Herrall Blackmore heard Col. Moore request the committee "to furnish him with 50 stand of arms." Five members were ordered "to call respectively of the inhabitants of this town tomorrow and borrow from them such guns as they can spare to supply Col. Moore." Dr. Fallon was moved from the Guard House and committed to the common jail.

The committee met on Saturday, January 20th, with "H. Blackmore" present and ordered twenty pounds of gun powder sent to "Wm Cause from the stock of the committee for the use of the inhabitants of Lockwood's Folly and Charlotte." Dr. Fallon was ordered "kept" by the sheriff of New Hanover County until he asked pardon for "his repeated offences and until he gave sufficient security for good behaviour for six months." He was to pay five hundred pounds of Proclamation money and to have no writing materials or visitors except in case of illness; a servant was to carry only the necessities to him.

Already the streets were filled with rumors that a Tory army was preparing to leave Cross Creek for Wilmington, and Governor Martin was to try taking the Warship, "Cruizer," up the Cape Fear River to join them, but what alarmed the committee on that Saturday night, January 20th, we do not know. The record shows that Herrall Blackmore reassembled with the other members at nine o'clock and "recommended to the commanding officers of the Militia in Wilmington to warn their companies to be ready at the Court House to-night completely accounted at the beat of the drum."27

Although we cannot date precisely the marriage of Herrall Blackmore and Mary Kenan or the births of their two children, Edward and Mary, from subsequent events we must conclude that both children had been born by the time of that fearful night of January 20th, 1776. In addition to his responsibilities with the Safety Committee, Herrall Blackmore must have been concerned for the safety of his young family. The strain of such crises must have extracted its price from both Mr. Blackmore and his wife; at any rate the health of his wife began declining, and his was none too good. Yet he carried on.

The night passed without any great change, as did the following Sunday. On Monday, January 22nd, the committee heard Dr. Fallon's request of a copy of the paper signed "a Lawyer" and of the proceedings of the committee against him. "H. Blackmore" agreed with the other members that the secretary should furnish him a copy of the proceedings but not of the paper in question.28

The following Saturday (January 27, 1776) brought another crisis. The governor has summoned his Majesty's Council to attend him on board the "Scorpion" sloop of war, and several members of the council, being in town, were planning to answer the summons. The committee thought otherwise and, with Herrall Blackmore being present, restated its determination to abide by the "Resolve of the Provincial Council" and "to prevent any persons from waiting on Governor Martin, and particularly at this present time." The chairman of the committee was "ordered to write respectively to each of the council who may be in town and acquaint them with this resolve." A letter from Colonel Parry, commander of the "Cruizer," to Captain Bachelor was read to the committee; Colonel Parry was permitting the captain "to pass with his vessel, provided he brought down the provisions demanded from Mr. Campbell." This letter was described as "an insult to this committee," and the committee resolved that "for the future, if any provisions are suffered to go down to the man of war, they shall be sent down in small boats as usual."29

On Friday, February 2, 1776, the committee was presented with a letter from the county committee, "requesting the attendance of this at the Bridge this day: Ordered, that the chairman of this committee and Herrall [sic] Blackmore attend the County Committee." Captain Bachelor's application "for leave to clear his Brig in Ballast, for New York," was denied, and the committee re-affirmed that "no vessel, whatever, in this port, cleat out for any other port, until further orders from this committee or a superior power."30

At another meeting on the same date, the following were present: John Ancrum (chairman), John Forster, Wm Ewens, J. Kirkwood, Henry Toomer, John DuBois, Joan Dunibin, H. Blackmore, James Geikie, John Slingsby. The committee was informed that a Mr. Mixon who lived "in the sound near to President Hasell's" went frequently on board the Man of War and that John Porter, a miller to Mr. J. Robeson, could inform the committee particularly of the said Mixon's conduct. A committee of three was appointed to examine John Porter, and if any proof should appear against Mr. Mixon, "acting inimical to the American Cause or going on board the man of war," the committee was to ask the commanding officer in the town to take him into custody. It was pointed out that many persons had neglected to sign the test recommended by the Provincial Council. It was resolved that "James Grant call on all those who have not signed and tender them the test, and such persons as refuse to sign, he is to make return of their names to this committee."31

On Monday, February 5th, the committee with Herrall Blackmore present heard a letter from Governor Martin to Maurice Moore in answer to the one the committee had permitted him to send to the Governor; also a letter from the Governor to the Council was read. Colonel Moore reported that the Man-of-War, lying at Fort Johnson, had fired on Continental troops under his command. In previous action, the Safety Committee had agreed that the "Cruizer," Sloop-of-War, "might be supplied with provisions from time to time so long as she did not commit hostilities on the persons or properties of the good people of this Province." Now it was resolved that "the ships of war now lying in this river, have actually committed hostilities against the inhabitants of this Province."32

On February 9th, Herrall Blackmore, with other members of the Committee took the following oath:

I, A.B. do freely and voluntarily swear, that in my opinion and sincere belief, neither the Parliament of Great Britain, nor any number or constituent branch thereof, has a right to impose Taxes upon the American Colonies, to regulate the internal policy thereof, and that all attempts by fraud or force to establish and exercise such claims and powers are violations of the peace and security of the people, and ought to be resisted to the utmost, and that the people of this colony singly and collectively are bound by the acts of the Continental and Provincial Congresses, because in both, they are freely represented by persons chosen by themselves; and I do solemnly swear to support, maintain and defend all and every the acts, resolutions and regulations of the said Continental and Provincial Congresses, to the utmost of my power and abilities—so help me God.33

The committee resolved that the Captain of the two
This request is evidence that Herral Blackmore was still committed to the American Cause. But we have no record of his resuming his place on the committee. Someone else could have been assigned his place and his work out of the territory might not have been finished. His health could have deteriorated under the strains and stresses of recent events so that the resumption of that responsibility would have been impossible. But his contribution to the American independence already had been made, and the events for which he had a part in preparing now began to happen.

On July 4th, the Continental Congress passed the resolution, prepared chiefly by Thomas Jefferson and known as the Declaration of Independence; William Hooper, Joseph Hewes and John Penn signed the document as representatives from North Carolina. News was slow in crossing the land; it was July 22nd before it reached Halifax. On August 1st, Cornelius Harnett, President of the Council of Safety, read the Declaration to a large crowd gathered in Halifax: Church bells were rung and guns were fired as the joyous news spread over the land. The Provincial Congress, meeting in Halifax in November 1776, proceeded to draw up a new state constitution, guaranteeing those rights and freedoms which had been denied them by king and parliament.

Declaring independence and winning it are two different things, and the war continued. The Cherokees, stirred by the British, poured down from their mountain retreats to massacre white settlers and to burn their homes. And the British fleet pounded the fortifications of Charleston. For a while Wilmington was left alone; with the exceptions of the absence of young men away in various armies, the absence of over-sea commerce and the rumors and reports of battles, life resumed its normal tempo among its one thousand residents.

On August 19, 1777, the Court of Sessions of Peace was held at Wilmington for the District of Wilmington, and the next day Herald (sic) Blackmore was ordered as a Freeholder to be summoned as a Grand Jurymen. On August 21st, he was called and appeared as the eleventh member of the Grand Jury. The minutes show: “The Grand Jury took the Oath of Allegiance to the State, and was sworn as prescribed by law... The Hon. Saml Spencer delivered the charge to the Grand Jury.”

On October 26, 1778, Herral Blackmore and his wife, Mary, sold to Parker Quince of Wilmington for two thousand, five hundred proclamation money "part of a Lot of ground in Wilmington in the county aforesaid, being part of the lot known in the plan of the said town by the number Six B..." On April 6, 1779, "Herral (sic) Blackmore of New Hanover County, Merchant, and Nancy her wife" sold to William Hillyard for six Negroes and six hundred pounds proclamation money "a certain piece or Parcel of Land lying and being in the Town of Wilmington beginning at the North East corner of Alexander McDougall Lot..." [We assume that Nancy was a pet name for Mary, since we have no evidence to the contrary or any suggestion that there was a second marriage.]

On July 8, 1779, Herral Blackmore, "Merchant in New Hanover County, bought from Rebecca Lloyd, widow and executrix of the last will and testament of Thomas Lloyd late of Wilmington Physician deceased" for "the sum of thousand and sixty pounds Amrt money of the State of North Carolina" a three-hundred acre plantation of the Welsh Tract on the North East River, with all of its buildings, orchards, pastures, etc. This deed was witnessed by John Moore and William Hooper. That one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, would be a witness to a business transaction for him would indicate that Herral Blackmore was in good standing with the promoters of the American Cause.

Likely the health of his wife and his own necessitated a change; in those days fevers were frequent in Wilmington and the strain and dangers of the war added to their weakened conditions. This plantation was half-way to Golden Grove, his wife's home, where her parents and brother still lived, and the river made travel easy. Out from the present community of Watha [first called Little Washington] this site became home for Herral Blackmore for the last two years of his life. He called it "Spring Hall." Today a stream of water flowing from a dozen springs into the North-East River is still called "Blackmore Branch."52

Sometime late in 1779 or early in 1780, Mary, his wife, died and was buried, accordingly to family tradition, in an old cemetery "out from Watha." Already the shadow of death was upon Herral himself. Yet we can believe he followed the course of the war as best he could. In May 1780, Wilmington surrendered to the British, and Cornwallis proceeded with his plans to recapture Carolina and Virginia. But things did not go as Cornwallis planned or as Josiah Martin had promised. Although there were some loyalists in the western part of the state, most of the Carolinians were patriots. However, at Camden the American forces were defeated [Aug. 16] and Charlotte was occupied. On Oct. 3rd, Josiah Martin issued a proclamation announcing the "restoration of royal rule in North Carolina." But the British optimism was shattered by the American victory at King's Mountain on Oct. 7th, and at Guilford Court House Cornwallis was to say, "The American fought like demons. Although it was a victory for Cornwallis, his British critics were to say: "Another such victory would destroy the British Army." Desperately needing replacements and supplies, Cornwallis began marching toward Wilmington where Major Craig held the port for the British. On April 7, 1781, Cornwallis reached Wilmington. General Nathanael Greene, his American opponent, dropped back into South Carolina and took the interior posts, leaving under British control only Charleston, Savannah and Wilmington in the South. On April 25, Cornwallis led his weakened and reduced army northward to join General Phillips in Virginia; his optimism and strength had been spent in North Carolina. At Yorktown, on October 19th, 1781, he would be trapped by the American armies and the French fleet and would surrender to General George Washington.

But Herral Blackmore did not live to learn of this victory of the American Cause. On April 10, 1781, he prepared his last will and testament. Written at Spring Hall on the Welsh Tract, he designated certain plantations and properties to his son, Edward, and his daughter, Mary. To his father-in-law, Felix Kenan, he left a silver watch and a gold ring; his mother-in-law was left another gold ring and the care of his children. William Kenan was to receive "a silver hilt of a sword," his silver shoe and knee buckles and all his wearing apparel. A mourning ring with the names of Herral and Mary Blackmore was to be purchased for John Hill, the husband of his wife's sister, and two dining tables and a desk with Eagle claw feet were left for Mrs. Jane Hill. To another sister-in-law, Rose Kenan, "now in England," he gave "a Negro boy named Hector" and money to pay for
education in England and to provide her with clothes upon her safe return. Félix Kenan, William Kenan and John Hill of Duplin County were designated “Executors in Trust” for his son and daughter. The will was witnessed by W. Sharpless and David Evans.\footnote{Colonial Records, op. cit., Vol. X, p. 388.}

We do not know when death came to this mariner, merchant, planter and patriot. Since the will was probated in the July Court of Duplin County, we concluded that he died between April and July of 1781 at the approximate age of forty. Except for the family tradition that he was buried in a cemetery out from Little Washington (now Watha, North Carolina), we do not know where he was buried or who conducted his funeral service.\footnote{Ibid.}

Concluding the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.” Herrall Blackmore gave all three. The strain undermined his health, resulting in an early death: “what remained of his wealth would be scattered so that later a judge would refer to his estate as being ‘wherever it may be found’;\footnote{Ibid. p. 420.} his very name would be almost unknown until this present writing. Is not such a man worthy to be remembered and to be counted among the heroes of American Independence?”

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\item \footnote{Colonial Records, op. cit., Vol. X, p. 388.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 389.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 393.}
\item \footnote{Ibid.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 410.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. pp. 411-412.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 418.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. pp. 419-420.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 420.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 422.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 425.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. pp. 426-427.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 427.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 432.}
\item \footnote{Ibid. p. 436.}
\item \footnote{Ibid.}
\item \footnote{Vide General Moore’s letter on this battle in Flashes of Duplin’s History and Government by Faison and Pearl McGowan. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1971, pp. 46-49. Also Rankin, op. cit., p. 19.}
\item \footnote{For Félix Kenan’s Tory sympathies see McGowan, op. cit., p. 44.}
\item \footnote{Colonial Records, op. cit., Vol. X, p. 624. It appears that the local committees of safety were absorbed by the new council. The Journal of the Council of Safety of North Carolina, which had its first meeting in Wilmington on June 5, 1776, begins: “The Provincial Congress having by Resolve Nominated the following Persons to be a Council of Safety, to-}
\item \footnote{Willie Jones, Esquire. For the district of Wilmington—Cornelius Harnett, Samuel Ashe, Esquires. For the district of Edenton—Thomas Jones, Whitmill Hill, Esquires. For the district of New Bern—James Coor, John Simpson, Esquires. For the district of Hillsborough—Thomas Person, John Rand, Esquires. For the district of Salisbury—Hezekiah Alexander, William Sharp, Esquires.”}
\item \footnote{Manuscript copy of the Proceedings of the Court of Sessions of Peace for Wilmington District, August 19, 1777. North Carolina State Department of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C.}
\item \footnote{New Hanover County Register of Deeds, Book K, p. 169.}
\item \footnote{Ibid., Book G, p. 309.}
\item \footnote{Ibid., Book M, p. 389.}
\item \footnote{I am indebted to the Reverend Dan Sellers of Wallace, N.C., for informing me of this stream and to his uncle, Mr. W. I. Crumpler, who lives by it and who graciously showed it to me.}
\item \footnote{Duplin County Will Book A, p. 22. Kenansville, N.C. The late Mr. Vivian Wells, Clerk of the Court for Duplin County for many years, found this will about 1930 and shared it with my father, the late Willie R. Blackmore.}
\item \footnote{There are some old unmarked graves, east of the present Memorial Garden on North Carolina Highway 117, near the town of Watha and not far from Blackmore Branch; one of these might well be that of Herrall Blackmore, but the likelihood of its ever being identified now is slight.}
\item \footnote{Duplin County Record, Part I, p. 20.}
\end{itemize}