

Revolutionary War period stories from what is now Cherokee County

By Robert A. Ivey
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In 1776, Nathaniel Jefferies and Wade Hampton I, patriot soldiers serving in the first regiment, were together on the day that the Indians killed a part of Wade's family. His father, Anthony Hampton, his mother, his brother, Preston, and an infant boy, son of his sister (James Harrison's wife) were all killed. The Indians burned their house and carried off a boy named John Bynum. When they heard of the massacre, Nathaniel went with Wade and helped to bury his parents, brother and nephew.

Nathaniel brought Wade with him and gave him a home for several months during the early part of the war when they were not fighting Tories. Wade spent a part of his time visiting with the John Beckham family. Beckham, also a Patriot soldier, lived nearby in present day Union County. He was a race-horse trainer and kept several of Hampton's horses. Adam Chisholm had a race tract within three miles of the Beckham plantation (just off present day Jerusalem Road). Hampton was a Patriot Cavalry officer rising to the rank of Colonel. (References: Unpublished manuscript of Jefferies Family by James Jefferies, History of Grindal Shoals by J. D. Bailey; History of Spartanburg County by Dr. J. B. O. Landrum)

In John Jefferies, Sr.'s Reminiscences of the Revolutionary War, he states that the Tories plundered his father's house, stole his horse, drove off the cattle, raped his mother and tried unsuccessfully to burn his house. In 1776, after this traumatic experience, his father purchased the land that is referred to today as "the brick house place" and moved his family into a log cabin already on the land. This cabin was on or near Gilkey Creek that flows into Thicketty Creek.

J. D. Bailey in his book, History of Grindal Shoals, states: "A party of British and tory raiders were passing through the country committing their usual depredations (rapes, etc.), and coming to Grindal Shoals encamped for the night. Without the least suspicion on their part, (William) Sharp and two of his associates were close on their trail. The night being dark, their first intimation of danger was Sharp's bold demand for their immediate surrender, or they would be blown into that region which is reputed to be pretty hot.

In the surprise of the moment they begged for quarter and twenty men laid down their arms. The victors threw the enemies' guns into the river; before they discovered the fewness of their captors, and the captives were driven to the nearest Whig encampment." No date is given for this encounter.

Bailey has written the following about the John Nuckolls family: "The greatest suffering inflicted on the Whig settlements was by thieving tories, with which the country was infested. Whig Hill was not immune to these depredations. A number of raids were made, but perhaps the most noted one



was made in 1780.

They made a clean sweep. The only bed left for the youngest child was a sheepskin used for a saddle blanket. It was, probably, at this time when they were shooting stock, breaking up furniture and ripping open feather beds, that Mrs. Nuckolls, womanlike, began tongue lashing them. One of the dastardly scoundrels struck at her head with a saber, and throwing up her arm to ward off the blow, received a wound, which left a scar that she carried to her grave.

On another occasion the raiders come and 'Aunt Agathy,' an old colored slave, grabbed the axe and placing herself behind the front door, threatened to kill the first one who tried to enter. Not one of the contemptible cowards made the effort. It was said that there was a bond between the descendants of

Mrs. Nuckolls and those of 'Aunt Agathy' that grew as the years went by."

All of the Coleman sons, who come to Grindal Shoals with their parents, Robert and Ann Hinton Coleman, fought on both the Patriot and Loyalist sides during the Revolutionary War as did their father. After the fall of Charleston, Robert and his son, Christopher, joined with the Loyalists.

Robert's daughter, Faith, married Randolph Hames. He was a Loyalist and was executed during the war. His daughter, Frances, married Zacharias Gibbs, who also served with the Loyalists. Frances died during the war and her girls were sent to the Draper and Cook families and given a home by them. Zacharias married again and fled to Nova Scotia. Lucy, a daughter, married Thomas Draper, who fought with the Patriots, and Ann, a daughter,

married Thomas Cook who was a Patriot soldier.

Thomas and Lucy Draper's daughter, Sarah, married Abraham Toney, a Patriot soldier, and their daughter, Lucy, married Thomas Dare (Adair, O'Dare, O'Dear). Thomas Dare's father was a Loyalist and ran the lower William Tate ferry during the war.

Christopher Coleman, son of Robert and Ann Hinton Coleman, and his wife, Mary Marshall Coleman, had three sons in the conflict. Prince and Stephen Coleman served as Loyalists under Col. Innes, and Robert Coleman served under Col. Thomas Brandon as a Patriot soldier.

Uzal Johnson in his diary on

September 5, 1780, wrote: "Moved at five in the Evening and marched a Mile and half to Pacolet River; the fresh so high that we could not ford it. I took quarters at Mr. Coleman's (Christy's Tavern), A quarter of a Mile from camp. Mrs. Coleman is a very warm Tory. She has two Sons in Col. Innes's corps. She has a family of small Children and has been Mother of five in two Years. They have been greatly distressed by the Rebels for their Loyalty. The House stripped of all the Beds and other furniture, and the Children of all their Cloaths."

Robert Coleman and his son, Christopher, and a portion of their families had to refugue to Charleston because of their Loyalist views. Ann Hinton Coleman, wife of Robert, was issued a coffin for her daughter December 15, 1781, and for her husband on December 17, 1781. Christopher died in Charleston right after the war. (References: Unpublished manuscript of Coleman Family; Unpublished manuscript of Zacharias Gibbs' Family; Uzal Johnson, Loyalist Surgeon by

Bobby Gilmer Moss) On October 4, 1780, Uzal Johnson made the following statement in his diary: "We moved at six o'clock in the morning and Marched twelve Miles to Sharps. Stopped to Dine, then went on three Miles to Tate's Plantation. Tate was out with the Rebels, his family Home. He has a very pretty plantation, pleasantly situated on Broad River. We received orders from Col. Ferguson to proceed to Kemps (Camps) over Broad River. Our Waggon Horses being tired down, we were obliged to remain all Night at Tate's." While living in what is now Cherokee County, William Tate served as a Patriot soldier and owned the upper and lower Tate's ferries on Broad River. (Reference: Uzal Johnson, Loyalist Surgeon by Bobby Gilmer Moss; Spartanburg County, South Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Books A-T, pages 269, 648).

Next installment of this
Bicentennial moment:
A dream saves James.