

WILLIAM PITT, EARL OF CHATHAM
This portrait hangs in the court room of Pittsylvania County

THE HISTORY
of
PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY,
VIRGINIA.

BY
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CHAPTER VII

THE CHEROKEE WAR—WESTERN EXPLORATION

In the hope of enlisting the aid of the friendly Cherokees and Catawas in the struggle against the French and their Indian allies, Governor Dinwiddie appointed Colonel William Byrd and Colonel Peter Randolph to visit the two nations.

This they did in the summer of 1756, carrying with them many gifts, and successfully concluded a treaty with the tribes whereby they agreed to furnish Virginia with 500 warriors in return for the erection of a fort for the protection of their wives and children against the assaults of the northern Indians. Virginia at once fulfilled her promise, and Fort Loudon on the Tennessee was built the same summer.

In the spring of 1757 when the long promised Indian aid arrived it was found to consist of but 400 warriors and of these only 180 remained at the fort at Winchester, the others immediately returning home. They had evidently become disaffected towards the Virginians through French influence, and now were bent upon mischief, for in their march back and forth through Virginia they committed many acts of violence upon the inhabitants, and slew and tomahawked¹ one of their own members in Col. Clement Read's yard.

When they reached western Halifax and Bedford Counties they became bolder in their defiant attitude and robbed the inhabitants of their horses, plundered their homes, and offered brutal insults to their persons.

The people of Halifax were placed in a most trying position, for it was well known and understood that the Cherokees were our friends and allies, and that their warriors had marched to our aid; yet here were marauding bands of more than a hundred warriors straying over the country and boldly robbing the inhabitants, who hesitated to offer resistance to the intruders for fear of provoking them to war. We may know that the Cherokees were keenly sensible of the plight in which these Virginians were placed, for they remained several weeks terrorizing the countryside.

A letter² of Colonel Fontaine to relatives in England, dated June 11, 1757, said: "Those of the Indians that call themselves our friends do despise us, and in their march through our inhabited country, when going to our assistance, insult and annoy. It is not above a month ago since a

¹Dinwiddie Papers, Vol. 2, p. 609.

²"Memoirs of a Huguenot Family," by Maury.

party of about a hundred and twenty Cherokees, in passing through Lunenburg insulted people of all ranks."

When Col. Read³ notified the Governor of the presence and behavior of the Cherokees his Excellency advised reasoning with them in a mild way for fear of provoking them to open warfare, which he said "would prove of fatal consequences; however the people are not to be robbed and insulted."

But when the people, acting upon the Governor's advice, attempted to reason with the Indians, their peaceful overtures were repulsed and bloodshed followed.

A letter⁴ from the Governor to Col. Fontaine, County Lieutenant, in regard to the situation stated:

May 7, 1757.

"Sir,—

I received y'r L're of April 20, last night and am very sorry for the apprehensions the frontiers are under an attack from the Indians. It is a surprise to me that the People allow Indians to come so frequently among them: the very examining of the Co'try and the Peoples Houses was Suspicion Sufficient to raise the militia and Take 'em all Prisoners. I approve of your sending out James Dillard with fifty men; and please order him to continue out aranging."

The citizens of Bedford County petitioned⁵ to be allowed to kill the Indians, and asked for soldiers to be stationed among them for protection, but their petition was denied in the hope of preventing open conflict.

Governor Dinwiddie's term of office expired January, 1758, and Mr. Blair, president of the Council, became the presiding official of the colony until the arrival of Governor Fauquier in the following June. Blair ordered an investigation into the origin of the troubles in Halifax and Bedford Counties with the Cherokees, and for this purpose a especial court was held at Mayes Ferry (now Booker's Ferry), on Staunton River, in Halifax County, on June 1, 1758, when the following depositions⁶ were taken of those who had suffered from Indian outrages or taken part in the conflicts with them:

"Halifax County } At Mays's Ferry on Staunton River June the 1st,
to-wit— } 1758, was taken by Order of Mr. President
Blair—The State cause and process of the three several Engagements,

³Dinwiddie Papers, Vol. 2, p. 612.

⁴Dinwiddie Papers, Vol. 2, p. 619.

⁵"North Carolina Hist. Review," Vol. 2, p. 443.

⁶"Indian Book," Vol. 6, pp. 153-59, at Columbia, South Carolina.

had between several parties of militia of Halifax and Bedford Counties, in Company with part of Captain Hawkin's men, with several parties of Indians in their march thro' those Counties which is as followeth, to-wit,

John Wheeler, William Verdiman, John Hall, Richard Thompson, William Verdiman Junr, Robert Jones Junr, and Henry Snow being first sworn, as to the first of the three Engagements they deposed in Substance as followeth.

First John Wheeler aged about 50, John Hall and Richard Thompson aged about 25 each, swore that having been robbed of some Horses sometime in the begining of May, being at a neighbours House, were informed by him, that several Indians were seen to pass thro' the Neighbourhood with a great number of packed Horses, and that several other Horses were missing of that Neighbourhood, to the number of 20 at least That they had Robbed several Houses, and had as was supposed murther'd or—Captivated a family near that Neighbourhood, as the family was missing, and could not be heard of, and that they called themselves Shawanees; Whereupon these three Deponents with four others agreed to go after the Indians, and in a friendly manner demand the Horses, and other things Stolen; That these three Deponents, being on Horse back, the rest on foot, came up with the Indians, And the Deponent Wheeler calling them Brothers, desired to treat with them. The Indians painted and sullen, put themselves in a posture for Battle, And sternly asked if they were for War, The Deponents replied they were not, That they were friends and Brothers and desired peace and quiet delivery of their Horses, and asked the Indians of what Nation they were; upon that they instantly set up the War Whoop; The deponent Wheeler seeing his Horse in the Hands of an Indian took hold of the Bridle, and whilst they were struggling for him, other Indians came up and seized him and the Horse he rode, which he was forced to quit to them after receiving several Blows with a Tomahawke—fled on foot, three Indians pursued him, and three Guns were fired, as he supposed at him and his Companions, as he heard a Bullet whistle by him, and he and his Companions made their escape without any other Hurt or loss, then that of two more Horses, which were then taken from them by the Enemy, That in their flight they met the rest of the Company on Foot, coming to them upon which reinforcement, they came to a resolution once more to follow the Indians, and being joyned afterwards by a few others, did so, making up the Number Eleven tho' some of those Eleven were without Guns, That they came to Staunton River, and when there, these several Depo-

nents, to-wit; John Wheeler, William Verdiman, John Hall, Richard Thompson, William Verdiman, Junr, Robert Jones, Junr, and Henry Snow, Swear that when they arrived at the River Bank they as they imagined heard the Indians WarHalloo on the other side, that they proceeded to pass the River, that when they gott over, on rising the Bank on the other side, they found a small fire just kindled, and at some little distance from thence, they observed the Enemy, upon which all the Deponents say that Old William Verdiman aged about sixty, went foremost, and that they all followed close at his heels, that when they came up to the Enemy they found they had tyed their Horses, pretty many in Number to the Bushes, that most of the Indians were painted and others then painting, some black some Red, but mostly black, that when they came near Old Verdiman pulled off his Hatt and Bowed and accosted them in terms of peace, and Friendship, and said Gentlemen we come in a Brotherly manner to ask you for our Horses, and other Goods, that you have taken from us, that the Indians gave a kind of a Grunt, and appeared determined for mischief, stripped themselves threw out the priming of their Guns, fresh primed and Cocked them, struck their Tomahawks into Trees, and in an angry manner demanded of the Deponents if they would fight; that whilst Verdiman who was still uncovered Bowing and Treating with them, the Enemy Indeavored to Environ them, and had actually got them into a half Circle before the Deponents were aware upon which, and young Verdiman observing that two Indians had pointed their Guns, they the Deponents all retreated backwards with their Faces to the Enemy, and took to trees, that on their retreat, the Indians threw their Tomahawks, and that two of them narrowly missed two of their men, that one of them would have hitt Old Verdiman, but that he luckely parried it with an Elder Stick he had in his hand (for he was one of the number of those that had no Guns) and the Indians pursuing and they retreating in Order, they were near drove to the River Banck, where they must have inevitably perished had they then attempted to have crossed, that on the retreat a Gun was fired upon which the Engagement insued, and many Guns discharged on both sides, in which Engagement the Father of John Hall one of the deponents fell, and being mortally wounded soon after died, that during the Engagement those of the Deponents who had Guns were obliged to fly from tree to tree to one another for a shott of Powder and Lead both being very scarce among them, that in the Engagement three Indians fell, that at last their Powder and Lead being Expended they fled back

over the River in different places, and being all met again on the other side, they went to a Neighbours House, supplied themselves with more Ammunition, and went back again to place where the Engagement was to look for their wounded friend, who they found expiring, three Indians dead in the Field and much plunder, that they scalped the Indians, threw their dead Bodies into the River, and brought away their dying friend and the plunder, and that their Friend soon after dyed, the account of Spoil found in the Field consisting of Horses, Saddles, Bridles, Mens, and Womans apparel &c., is herewith sent Contained in two papers Numbered 1. 2.

To give the particulars and cause of the second Engagement William Morgan, Pinkethman Hawkins, Thomas Overstreet, and George Thomas were sworn.

Pinkethman Hawkins on his Oath deposed, that being Ordered out by Colonel Talbot to join Captain Mead, to go in pursuit of the Enemy who had killed Hall, stole many Horses, Robbed and plundered many Families in Bedford and Halifax Countys, and was supposed to have killed or Captivated other Families who were then missing, in his March he fell upon the House of one Standiford (where he found one Byrd whose wife the Indians had taken and threatned to carry her away as a Squa, though she afterwards luckily made her escape, whilst the Enemy was Busy in plundering her Husbands House) and he found the House of Standiford strip of everything, the Bed Ticks ripped open and carryed away, and the feathers scattered all over the House, and the Family gone, whilst there he heard a hollowing and noise of Indians. Ordered his men then with him fifteen in Number to go with twenty five of the Inhabitants, who had collected themselves, and way lay the Indians at a pass he was advised by his Guide, they must go through, and extend a line along the Ridge by that pass as long as the number of men would admit of, and wait the coming of the Indians; for that he himself and another, namely one Tarbro, would go to the Indians (who by the noise he imagined was over the River not far of) and treat with them in a Friendly manner about the Prisoners and Plunder they had gott, and that he charged them, if they should see the Indians pass by with him a Prisoner, or, that they should hear of his death, or, if they should pass by with their Horses Packed, they might conclude his Treaty with them had proved ineffectual, and Ordered them if either of these things should happen, to treat the Indians (more especially as all along their March, they had declared themselves Shawanees), as Enemys,

and on the March of his men, in consequence of such Orders, He Hawkins, with Tarbro, as was concerted proceeded forwards to treat with the Indians, that when they came to the River Eight or Ten Indians came over the River to them, that he endeavoured to come to terms with them, proposed peace and Friendship, and called them Brothers, they surlily answered, no, no, no Brothers, English damned Rogues, and clapping their Hands, on their Breasts called themselves, and making signs signified to them, there was a great many Shawanees all about them, that the wood and Mountains were full of them, that he still mentioned peace and told them that he and Tarbro were unarmed and came as Brothers, but the Indians notwithstanding his mentions for peace, Striped him of his Coat, Waiscoat, Shirt, Shoes, Stockings, and Hatt, and gave him several Blows with their Tomhawks and ordered him away, he remembering that in his Breeches (which was all the Coaths they had left him) he had about five shillings in Cash, gave it to one of the Indians, who thereupon returned him his Coat, upon which the Deponent Hawkins thinking they were in a better humour, again proposed to treat with them, upon which they beat him and Tarbro very severely, and Cut him thro' the upper Lip with a Blow of a Scalping knife, led them both by the Hands up the River Banck and ordered them to run away or they would kill them, which Order they readily Obeyed, and being at two great a distance, and as they were bare footed did not come up with the men till the Battle with the Indians was over.

William Morgan on his Oath deposed that being one of the Twenty five that had joined Hawkin's Men excited thereto by the Complaints of the People for the continual and repeated Robberies committed among them by the Indians, and more particularly on Account of the several Familys missing supposed to be killed or Captivated by the Indians, and of the Caption of Byrd his Neighbours Wife, he with the others on the receipt of Hawkins's Order, marched under the direction of one Shoat who was their Guide to take possession of the Ridge, mentioned in Hawkins's Deposition, where they posted themselves, very advantageously, that whilst they were there waiting for the Enemy, Byrd, who had watched the Fate of Hawkins and Tarbro, came to them and informed them of the abuse received by them from the Indians, and directed them to be ready prepared for the Enemy was approaching, in a very little time after they heard the Indian War Whoop and a Gun fired upon which a runing fit began, that the Indians tryed to get them into a half moon three times which at last they effected and that in the

Engagement he saw two Indians fall, that at last the Enemys half moon being broken, both parties fled from each other.

Thomas Overstreet swore in Substance as Morgan the foregoing Deponent George Thomas being sworn Deposed in Substance as followeth, That the Indians had Stole a Stallion from one John Echols, that Echols bought a Horse of the Deponent to follow the Indians to give them in Exchange for his Stallion, that the Indians took him from Echols also, and Shot at him, that their Number to about forty had a large Number of Pack Horses with them; That they Robbed Striped one Wollocks and beat him; That being sent by Colonel Talbot for relief of Men, in his way met some men who had been striped and beaten by the Indians, that he went with them to the House of one Morgan, a Brother to Morgan one of the Deponents, which they found open and plundered, and all the Family missing, that he found abundance of Feathers Strewed about the Yard, that in the path a little distance from the House they found a Childs Shirt and Cap, and some pieces of Rope and Hickory Bark, on which they concluded the Family was bound taken and carryed away Prisoners; that a little further they found the Patent of Morgans Land and some paper money; That they proceeded to the next House which they found in the same order and condition, with the Feathers thrown about, and the Family missing; That they went farther to other Houses and found them empty, the Family's gone and the Doors of their Houses Tomahawked and cut with many other signs of wanton Mischief, That these appearances induced him to join the twenty four who joined Hawkins' fifteen (the rest of Thomas's Deposition was the same in Substance as Morgans and Overstreets with respect to their Orders and the Engagement with the Indians, only with this addition) that the day after the Engagement, he this Deponent with others came to View the Field where the Engagement happened, where they found one Indian dead which was scalped, Nineteen fine Horses, and much plunder, and among the plunder a French Scalping Knife, note, that this second Engagement happened soon after the first but not with the same Indians.

To the third Engagement were examined upon Oath George Watts, Charles Brigh, Samuel Brown, and John Craig.

George Watts on his Oath deposed that on or about the 23^d day of May one Franciscæ, having informed the people in his Neighbourhood that he was Robbed of his Horse by Twelve Indians, that they had burnt a House and Tomhawked a woman; a Sergeant belonging to

Captain Haristones Company in Bedford, with Nine men of which these Deponents were a part were Ordered to follow the Indians, to know who they were and treat with them about the delivery of the Horses and things Stolen. That they went in search of them, and when they came in sight of them which was but a few miles from Bedford Court House, the Sergeant and four of the others would proceed no farther, not liking the looks of the Indians, but that he with the three others the Deponents, proceeded to march up to them; That when they came near (as they were Ordered) they demanded of what Nation they were, and they answered Cherokees, they therupon told them they were Brothers, and as a Token they were so Grounded their Firelocks and told the Indians to do so to and meet and shake Hands and talk about their Horses &c^a they had taken from the White men their Friends, upon which the Indians immediately striped themselves (as is their Custom when determined for Battle) took to Trees, and prepared to Engage. That this Deponent being foremost, took, as they rest also did, to a tree, that an Indian fired at him, that he returned the fire and saw an Indian fall, they they these Deponents gave Ground and at last ran, that the Indians did not pursue, that they ran to a Plantation near, where were some women and Children, and in a small time returned to the Place where they fought the Indians, and found them gone and some Plunder and Stolen Horses left behind them, which they took and carryed away.

Charles Bright Swore the same in Substance with Watts, only with this Circumstance added, to wit, that before the Indians fired and Watts had returned the fire on which an Indian fell, the Indians had got them into a half Moon, and that the Bullet shot by the Indian at Watts went between Watts's head and the Bark of the Tree he stood behind and beat of much of the Bark.

Samual Brown deposed the same in Substance as Watts and Bright. John Craig deposed the same in substance as Watts, Bright and Brown, with this addition, to-wit; the twelve as he supposed, Cut thro' the Roof of his House and Robbed it.

Now follows the Substance of some Depositions taken to prove many Robberies committed by the Indians on several of the Inhabitants, and to prove they called themselves Shawanees, taken at the Instance and request of the persons concerned in the several Engagements.

John Wallocks being sworn deposed in substance as followeth: That having heard of much Mischief being done and of many Robberies being

committed, by the Indians in Bedford and Halifax County's, the Neighbourhood where he lived collected themselves together at one of the Neighbours Houses till the Indians should pass by, or the fright be over, that whilst he was there some people came to them who had been just Striped, Robbed and beaten by the Indians, and that they believed the Indians by the Rout they took would pass that way, along a Road that ran near the Plantation where they then were, that he excited by an Imprudent Curiosity to see them, went to the road along which he supposed they would pass, and hideing himself in convenient place, waited their coming, he presently heard them rideing Hallooing and whooping, and when they came pritty near him they stopped in an open convenient part of the road to try the Horses they had but just Stolen, and continued their sometime, pacing up and down the Road diverting themselves, till he, skipping from one hiding place to another, the better to discover what they were about, was unhappily espied by them and caught; when they caught him they Stripped him of every thing but his Shirt, took away his Gun Powder-Horn and Shot Bag, shook their Tomhawks over his head, and calling themselves Shawanees beat him pritty much, and dismissed him, ordering him to run, and he running pleased at his Escape fell upon another Indian who took his Shirt, gave him another threshing, and sent him off Stark naked Ordering him to Run and as he fled, threw a Stone at him which had well nigh knocked him down, and cut his Back in a terrible manner.

John Yates being sworn deposed, that he in company with one Philip Preston were rideing along the road together not having heard anything about the Indians, or suspecting anything about them. He heard a Gun fired close behind him, and turning about discovered three Indians close at his Heels, That they could have made their Escape, But on the Indians calling out Cherrockees and holding out their hands in token of friendship, and fearing to be fired at should they attempt to Escape, they stopped; The Indians came up to them and Shook hands, and then instantly pulled them off their Horses, beat them with Sticks, Stripped them naked, took all they had from them, pointed their Guns at them, and Ordered them to run which Order they instantly Obeyed.

Philip Preston being sworn deposed the same in substance as John Yates.

Patrick Johnson being sworn, deposed that a parcel of Indians of what Nation he knew not, came to his House shot a Bull in his yard. Robbed him of eight Horses and all he had in the World.

Hartman Doran on his Oath deposed that he was Robbed by the Indians of all that he had.

James Moore on his Oath deposed that the Indians came to his House, set up the War Whoop, and called themselves Shawanees, that he saw in their possession the Horse of Robert Lucas his Neighbour Loaded with goods—That they demanded of him his Horse, that they beat him unmercifully that they shot two Guns, that ye Powder of one flew in his face, that they took two mares from him and Robbed him of his goods.

John Allcorn on his Oath deposed that being at home, he heard a Gun fire, heard the War Whoop, that he hid himself, and that they Robbed him of every thing in his House.

George Adams deposed much to the same purpose, and that they Robbed him Adams, of all he had in his House.

Robert Pepper deposed that on the 7th day of May he and his Mother being at home, some Indians came rideing up to his house that some fired their Guns, others flourished their Tomhawks, that they called themselves Cherrockees and told them many Shawanees were coming, that they took from him three Riffle Guns his Powder-Horn and Shot Bag, Struck his Mother with a Tomhawke, presented a Gun to her, struck him with a Tomhawke and with the But end of his Gun struck out two of his Teeth, knocked down his Mother, and Robbed the House of every thing in it.

The particulars of the several Robberies are Contained in the papers herewith sent, number No. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. which papers were sworn to, and the Quaker Echol's letter is also herewith sent. In Obedience to His Honour M^r. President Blair's Commands we the subscribers met at Mays Ferry on Staunton River in the County of Halifax on Thursday the first day of June 1758 and caused to come before us the several parties in the several foregoing depositions, named, and on Oath Examined them touching the State, Cause and process of the three Several Engagements between the militia and several Parties of Indians, and have set down as near as possible the sum and substance of the whole.

Witness our hands the 1st day of June
aforesaid—

Clement Read.
Mathew Talbot."

One would judge from these depositions that the people of Halifax and Bedford showed much restraint and patience in dealing with the

Indians, suffering great indignities and heavy losses rather than offend an allied nation. A firmer stand might have served a better purpose.

At this time Jeremiah Terry of Halifax appointed⁷ his "Trusty Friend Nathaniel Terry to be my true and lawful attorney, to act, do and perform all such matters and things to me in any wise relating," stating that he was "about to depart the colony and bound for the Cherokee Nation." He was probably a member of some commission appointed to confer with the Cherokees.

Virginia's overtures of peace were without avail and the Cherokees became more and more estranged from their white friends. They were both alarmed and irritated by the ever encroaching settlements of the whites who had purposely sought the Cherokee neighbourhood that they might enjoy the protection of these Indians against the cruel Shawnees. It was but natural for the French emissaries, in their efforts to win the aid of the Cherokees for themselves, to point out that the white settlers would never rest until they possessed the red man's territory, for they had already made great inroads upon his hunting grounds.

The final break was caused by the arrest of a chieftain while in conference with Governor Littleton of South Carolina, whereupon the Catawbias and the Cherokees took up the tomahawk against the white settlers. Peace was just settling over the country; men were feeling free once more to go about their daily affairs of sowing and reaping and building and road making, when this second Indian War burst upon them.

Col. Peter Fontaine⁸ writing in 1760 of this second Indian conflict said:

"Several families that had since the former troubles returned to their settlements on the frontiers, are again frightened and have left them—so that Halifax is much confused and as unfit for my business (surveying) as when I left it. Our Colonies are raising men to go against them.

"The Indians have fallen upon our poor scattered unprepared frontier settlements * * * and 'tis said they have brake up more frontiers, come lower down to do mischief and killed as many people as in the last war."

In this emergency Virginia organized a regiment of a thousand men, which was put under the command of Col. William Byrd. The Cherokees were defeated in the battle of Etchoe, in 1761, and peace following, in January 1762, the General Assembly voted⁹ to the regiment in apprecia-

⁷Halifax County Deed Book.

⁸"Memoirs of a Huguenot Family."

⁹Hening's "Statutes."

tion of their valor and bravery, and the hardships they had undergone "one full year's pay over and above what shall be due them."

In the year 1761, as soon as the state of affairs with the Cherokees and Catawbias would admit of hunting in the wilderness, Elisha Walden¹⁰ and a party of 18 men, made up of his friends and neighbors, formed themselves into a company for the purpose of taking a "long hunt." Walden¹¹ lived on Smith River at a place called the "Round-a-bout," about two miles west of Martinsville; we have seen that in 1748 he was appointed constable of western Lunenburg, from Smith River to the Wart Mountains. He had married a Miss Blevin, the daughter of a neighbor, Will Blevin a noted hunter, and in the hunting party were some members of the Blevin family, Henry Scags, Newman, Charles Cox, and others of western Halifax and Bedford.

"Long-hunting" is described by the old frontiersman, John Redd, in the following manner:¹²

"The (long) hunter set out about the first of October, and each man carried two horses, traps, a large supply of powder, led and a small hand vise and bellows, files and screw plates for the purpose of fixing the guns if any of them should get out of fix, they returned about the last of March or the first of April * * *. In their hunts there rarely ever went more than two or three in a company, their reason for this was very obvious, they hunted in the western part of Virginia and Kentucky. The country they hunted in was roamed over by the Indians and if they happened to be discovered by the Indians two or three would not be so apt to excite their fears about having their game killed up, besides this small parties were much more successful in taking game than large ones."

Long hunting was an occupation that required much hardihood, courage and endurance, but in return yielded a good profit, for Haywood¹³ says "an industrious hunter would return with peltry enough to bring 16 or 1700 pounds, an immense sum of money in those days."

John Redd was a neighbor and knew Walden well, and said¹⁴ of him in his Reminiscences: "In 1774 he had been a long hunter for many years and hunted on a large range of mountains to the east of Powells Valley and from Walden the mountains took its name, and to this day

¹⁰Judge Haywood's "History of Tennessee," p. 45.

¹¹Virginia Mag. History, Vol. 6, p. 338.

¹²Virginia Mag. History, Vol. 7, p. 248.

¹³Haywood's "History of Tennessee," pp. 38-39.

¹⁴Virginia Mag. History, Vol. 7, p. 249.

goes by the name of Walden's Ridge. He always returns home with his horses heavily laden with skins and furs."

Two other long hunters known to Redd were William Pittman and Henry Skags, of whom¹⁶ he said, "they were men of high sense of honor and vary great truth." Both probably lived for awhile in this section for Pitman's Creek is a branch of Blackwater River, and several members of the Skags family, John, Charles and Zacharich, were given in the first list of tithables¹⁶ for Pittsylvania County.

It is very probable that Walden and his friends had served in the recent Indian campaign and ranging along the frontiers had seen for themselves the great abundance of game that lived undisturbed in the virgin forest of Southwest Virginia. They remained on this hunt eighteen months, ranging over southwestern Virginia and eastern Tennessee and Kentucky, naming the mountains and streams as they came to them. Powell's Mountain was so called from¹⁷ seeing the name of Ambrose Powell cut on a beech tree there; Powell had accompanied Dr. Thomas Walker of Albemarle when he explored that section in 1750. They also named the adjacent river and valley Powell. Walden's Ridge was named for Walden; Scag's Ridge and Newman's Ridge were named for other members of the company. They crossed the mountains through Cumberland Gap into the Kentucky country and all agreed that Walden should name the gap, which he did calling it Cumberland for his former home in Cumberland County, Virginia.

On their return the following year they crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains at Flower's Gap in Franklin County, and found few settlers west of the mountains, the murderous attacks of the Indians having driven them eastward and southward. They hunted this year on the Clinch River, which they named for the following amusing incident:

"An Irishman was a member of the company; in crossing the river he fell from the raft into it and cried out, 'Clinch me! Clinch me!' meaning lay hold of me. The rest of the company, unused to the phrase, amused themselves at the expense of the poor Irishman and called the river Clinch."

In the year¹⁸ of 1764 the Blevins went up into Kentucky and hunted near Crab-Tree Orchard on Rock Castle Creek, where they found the game so plentiful that they continued to hunt there for several years.

¹⁶Virginia Mag. History, Vol. 7, p. 250.

¹⁶In the List of Tithables taken for Pittsylvania County in 1767 were John, Charles and Zachariah Scaggs.

¹⁷Haywood's "Tennessee."

¹⁸Haywood's "Tennessee."

Daniel Boone, who was living on the Yadkin, came among the hunters that year, saying that he was employed by the Henderson Company to explore the country. Henry Skags was afterwards employed by the Hendersons for the same purpose.

Draper¹⁹ said of Skaggs that he and his brothers Charles and Richard were a family of noted hunters, and nothing but hunters, who kept pace with the advancing wave of settlements. He described Skaggs as "possessing a large bony frame, he was bold, enterprising and fearless." In the winter of 1771 Henry Skaggs and a man named Knox made a station and hunted in Greene County, Kentucky. One day when absent from the station on a hunt their camp was plundered by a half-breed Cherokee named Will Emery. When they returned to find the result of their winter's labors gone, they carved on a tree, "Fifteen hundred skins gone to ruination." Skaggs²⁰ and his brother later settled in this section of Kentucky, where they lived to a ripe old age.

Daniel Boone's is the romantic figure associated with Kentucky's early history, but this band of intrepid hunters from western Halifax first blazed the way into that unknown country, and braving the dangers of Indian attacks, lived year after year in the heart of the wilderness. They marked the Indian trail through Cumberland Gap, followed in after years by countless thousands of homeseekers bound for the west—the Gap now so famed in the annals of our early history.

We have seen that traders from Virginia and the Carolinas found their way into this western country in the latter half of the preceding century, and traded with the Indians for furs. Later there grew up a hardy race of hunters who went into the wilderness with their own guns and secured the pelts for the fur market. They were the explorers of the western country, naming the mountains and streams; they were the fore-runners of the settlers, often acting as guides through the wilderness over which they had so often hunted.

It was probably the favorable reports of the far western country brought home by Walden's Company that induced Captain William Bean to forsake the security of his home in Pittsylvania, and make the first white settlement in the wilderness of Tennessee.

Walden²¹ himself moved out to this new country and made his home for awhile on the Holstein River, 18 miles above Knoxville. But having grown to love solitude, when the settlements around him grew numerous, he traveled on further into the west and settled in Missouri.

¹⁹Draper's Manuscripts.

²⁰"Cyclopedia of Biography," Vol. 5, p. 813, says of the Skaggs family that they were of Scotch descent and many of them settled in Maryland.

²¹Virginia Mag. of History, Vol. 6, p. 338.

CHAPTER X

PRE-REVOLUTIONARY DAYS

In 1768 Lord Norbonne de Botetourt, a new governor, arrived in Virginia. He forthwith issued a call for an election of Burgesses, which accordingly met at the capitol in Williamsburg on May 1, 1769.

There was much friction at this time between England and the American Colonies over the question of taxation and Lord Botetourt had been instructed to impress the people with a sense of England's authority and dignity. Col. John Donelson, the county surveyor, and Mr. Hugh Innes, a lawyer, were elected to represent Pittsylvania in the House of Burgesses at this Assembly, and both gentlemen were present and witnessed the elegant scene of Governor Botetourt's arrival at the capitol in a state coach presented to him by the king and drawn by eight milk white horses. Governor Botetourt opened the Assembly with all the formality of a British Parliament, but mere pomp could not dampen the spirit of this enlightened body of men.

Since the governor had no particular business for them to consider, the House began to discuss the subject of taxes. The Stamp Act had been repealed, but later England had laid a tax on paper, glass, tea and painter's colors. The House drew up a set of resolves in which they set forth that "the right of imposing taxes in Virginia is now, and ever has been vested in the House of Burgesses, according to the ancient and established practice." It was further agreed that an address should be presented to the king himself, setting forth their grievances.

The Governor becoming alarmed at these proceedings, summoned the House of Burgesses to the Council Chamber and said to them: "Gentlemen, I have heard of your resolves, and auger ill of their effects. You have made it my duty to dissolve you, and you are dissolved accordingly."

But the House of Burgesses were not one bit awed by the Governor's action and repaired to a private house and continued their meeting. They organized a Non-Importation Association, agreeing not to import or to buy of others things imported from England until the tax was removed from paper, tea and glass. A long paper was drawn up stating their wrongs, followed by eight resolves, which was signed by the gentlemen present, and later circulated through the country for other signatures. The Association was sponsored by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and other great Virginia leaders, and with their

signatures¹ are not only those of John Donelson and Hugh Innes but also Nathaniel Terry and John Wilson, representing home thought.

We may well know that a deep sense of the gravity of the situation with the mother country was beginning to invade all men's minds, and that at gatherings on muster fields, at church and at court, the subject of the unjust taxes was discussed with deep interest.

The House of Burgesses was convened again in November of that year, at which time a great many different subjects were considered and laws enacted. It was determined that every burgess should be paid ten shillings a day by his county for his service in attending the General Assembly, and that the burgesses from Halifax and Pittsylvania should be allowed six days for going and six days for returning, the trip being made on horseback. It was at this session that the town of Chatham was established at Pittsylvania Courthouse. A fine of twenty shillings a month was laid on any person building a wooden chimney in the new town as a precaution against fire.

Matters relative to the Indians were also considered and Colonel John Donelson, of Pittsylvania, was appointed to represent Virginia in a conference with the Cherokee Chiefs at Lochabor, South Carolina in 1770. At this conference a treaty was drawn up respecting the boundary lines between Virginia and the Cherokee Nation, in which Virginia's western frontiers were obtained; for the Cherokees claimed that their territory extended eastward to the Peaks of Otter. Colonel Donelson was accompanied at the conference by Major Lankford, also of Pittsylvania.

In 1772 Colonel Donelson was appointed to survey the State Line to the westward, which he did, designating certain limits for the Indians; at this time he marked out a route for emigrants to follow going into Kentucky. He then called the Cherokee chiefs to a conference at the Long Island of the Holstein River and gained their consent to and approval of all that he had done.

Colonel Donelson and Mr. Hugh Innes represented Pittsylvania in the House of Burgesses until 1774, which ushered in the period of the Revolution.

Hostilities which had been smoldering for some time broke out afresh between the Indians and whites in 1774, and a force under the command of Col. Andrew Lewis was organized for defense. Pittsylvania was called upon for troops. A letter² from Col. William Preston to Col. Arthur Campbell August 14, 1774, stated: "I have demanded 100 men

¹Burk's "History of Virginia."

²Dunmore's "War," p. 140.

with proper Officers from the County Lieutenant of Pittsylvania to cover the Frontiers in the absence of the Troops. Those will be employed from the Head of Clinch to Culbersons." Major Campbell³ replied to Col. Preston: "I hope levies from Bedford and Pittsylvania is arrived at New River."

The force under Col. Lewis marched northward toward the Ohio to meet and join forces with Lord Dunmore in order to make an attack upon the Indian towns. The Indians attacked Lewis before he had overtaken Dunmore and the battle of Point Pleasant was fought October 10th, 1774. Samuel Crawley, a Pittsylvanian lost his life in this battle as shown by a petition presented to the General Assembly by his wife, Elizabeth Crawley, asking aid for herself and small children, which was granted, £25 for present relief and a yearly pension of £20.

At the Continental Congress of 1774 it was resolved that the Colonies would neither buy from nor sell to Great Britain, and this agreement to boycott the mother country's trade was called the Continental Association. Towns and counties were authorized to form committees to see that the Association was carried into effect, and Virginia lost no time in carrying out the instructions.

The committees were chosen from among the most experienced and reputable men in the county, and there has been preserved in a newspaper of the day an account of Pittsylvania's selection of her Committee of Safety.

Virginia Gazette, February 11, 1775:

"The freeholders of the County of Pittsylvania, being duly summoned, convened at the Courthouse of the said county on Thursday the 26th day of January, 1775, and there proceeded to make choice of a committee, agreeable to the direction of the General Congress, for enforcing and putting into execution the Association, when the following gentlemen were chosen members of the same, viz: Abraham Shelton,⁴ Robert Wil-

³Dunmore's "War," p. 194.

⁴Abram Shelton was active in the life of the county, serving as justice, vestryman, militia officer, sheriff and member of General Assembly. He was the son of Crispin Shelton who with his brothers John and Daniel Shelton, moved from Amelia County to Pittsylvania about 1765, and settled in the upper part of the Meadows, where they owned large bodies of land.

Abram Shelton married Chloe Robertson of Amelia, January 16, 1760, (Amelia Marriage Bonds); his will was proven at Pittsylvania C. H. in 1789 in which he named wife Chloe, daughters Lettie, Anne and Jane Shelton, sons Abram, Crispin, (Doctor) Tavenor, Frederick, Meacon, Robertson and William. His home was on Buck Branch, near Chalk Level. Dr. Tavenor Shelton was one of the early physicians of the county.

The will of Mrs. Chloe Robertson Shelton was proven February 20, 1804, in which she left her estate to her beloved daughter, Jane Stone, wife of John Stone.

iams,⁵ Thomas Dillard, William Todd,⁶ Abraham Penn,⁷ Peter Perkins, Benjamin Lankford, Thomas Terry,⁸ James Walker,⁹ William Peters Martin, Daniel Shelton,¹⁰ William Ward,¹¹ Edmund Taylor, Isaac Clement,¹² Gabriel Shelton,¹³ Peter Wilson,¹⁴ William Short, Henry Con-

⁵Robert Williams and his brother Colonel Joseph Williams settled in North Carolina prior to the Revolution, and married sisters, Sarah and Rebecca Lanier, daughters of Thomas Lanier, an early justice of Lunenburg County, who later moved to North Carolina (Wheeler's "Reminiscences of North Carolina"). Sarah Lanier and Robert Williams were married October 10, 1774 (Marriage bond at Oxford, N. C.), and moved to Pittsylvania County to live, settling near Sandy Creek of Banister River. Here he practiced his profession of law and served as commonwealth attorney for both Pittsylvania and Henry Counties. He died in 1790, and the inventory of his estate showed much silver, books, and elegance of living; he left no will but in 1799 there was a division of his estate as follows:

To Col. John Williams and wife Elizabeth, 617 acres, including Manor Plantation on Sandy Creek.
To Nathaniel W. Williams, 1,540 acres, beginning on John White's line, taking in the mill.
To Micajah Watkins and Sarah his wife, 240 acres and 1,156 acres.
To Patsy Williams, 279 acres, the balance of 2,866 acres land of the Manor Plantation, 147 acres, the mill tract 168 acres on Cascade Creek.
To Fanny Williams 200 acres, 296 acres and 790 acres.
Patsy Williams married John Henry of Woodlawn.

⁶William Todd of Chesterfield County, settled first in Halifax and about 1770 moved to Pittsylvania County where he married Jane Shelton, the daughter of Crispin Shelton. He was active in the early life of the county, filling various positions of trust such as justice of peace, officer of militia and sheriff. William Todd (5) was the son of Richard Todd (4) of King and Queen County and his wife, Elizabeth Richards, who had issue: William Todd (5) of Pittsylvania, Richard (5) of Pittsylvania, Mildred (5) who married Thomas Tunstall, and Thomas (5), who went to Kentucky in 1785 with Harry Inness and became chief justice in 1806. Richard Todd (4) of King and Queen County, who died in 1766, was the son of William Todd (3) and his wife Martha Vicaris, who were married in 1709. William Todd (3) was the son of Thomas Todd (2), born 1660, and his wife Elizabeth Bernard. Thomas Todd (2) was the son of Thomas Todd (1), of Gloucester, who died in England, 1677, and his wife Ann Gorsuch, daughter of the Rev. John Gorsuch, of England, and his wife Ann Lovelace, daughter of Sir William Lovelace (1584-1627) and Anne Barne, his wife. Anne Barne who died in 1632, was the niece of Sir Edwin Sandys and George Sandys, those two staunch friends and supporters of the Early Virginia Colony. (*Va. Magazine of History*.)

⁷Abram Penn lived in that part of Pittsylvania that later became Henry County, and was a member of the Penn family that descended from Moses Penn, who married Catherine Taylor, daughter of John Taylor of Caroline.

⁸Thomas Terry was the son of Joseph Terry, whose will was proven at Pittsylvania Courthouse in 1785, naming sons David Terry, Thomas Terry, Joseph Terry, Shampness Terry, deceased; daughters Anne Barksdale, Lucy Williams, Elizabeth Oliver; executors Beverly Barksdale, Thomas Terry and David Terry.

Thomas Terry was the grandson of Benjamin Terry, Senior, whose will was proven at Pittsylvania Courthouse, September 1771, naming sons Nathaniel, Benjamin, Peter, Joseph and Robert Terry.

⁹James Walker's estate was divided by Court in 1783, his two daughters Susannah and Wilmoth being his heirs. Wilmoth Walker married James Mastin Williams and Susannah Walker married William McCraw.

¹⁰Daniel Shelton was the son of Mrs. Mary Shelton Clark whose will was written in Amelia in 1750 and probated at Pittsylvania Courthouse in 1770; she named sons Ralph, John, Crispin, Benjamin, James and Daniel Shelton, leaving to Daniel the greater share of her estate. Daniel Shelton's will was probated September 18, 1809, in which he named wife Lettie Shelton, sons Young, Leroy, Tunstall, David and Willis; daughters Milly Taylor, Anne Bailey, Sally Payne, Clary and Polly Shelton.

¹¹William Ward was the son of Major John Ward and his wife Anne Chiles Ward, whose home, "The Mansion," lay across Staunton River in Campbell County. Major Ward's will proven in 1813, named following children: 1. William Ward, born 1745, married Mildred Adams. 2. Agatha Ward, married Col. John Calloway. 3. Anne Ward, married 1st Christopher Lynch, 2d Benj. Dillard. 4. Jeremiah Ward. 5. Thomas Ward married Mildred Walden. 6. John Ward of "Sulphur Springs," Pittsylvania. 7. Henry Ward, married Martha Barbour.

William Ward, and his wife Mildred Adams (daughter of Robert Adams and his wife Penelope Lynch), had issue: Robert A. Ward married Betsy Terrell; John Ward married Tabitha Walden and lived at "Edge Hill" on Staunton River; Sally Ward married Samuel Smith, son of John Smith of "The Pocket"; Mildred Ward married Dr. Lynch Dillard.

Captain William Ward was a man of large property and was active in the life of the county, serving as a justice of the peace, member of Committee of Safety in 1775, captain of the militia, and sheriff of the county in 1792. His home was in the northern part of the county on Staunton River.

¹²Isaac Clement, the son of Captain Benjamin Clement and his wife Susanna Hill, was born 1733. He married Anne Denham of Wales and had issue three sons, Hugh, Stephen and Isaac, Jr. About 1798 he moved to Pendleton District, S. C., and was accompanied by two of his sons; Stephen, who had married Susanna Palmer of Halifax County, remained in the county and inherited his father's

way, John Payne, Sr., Joseph Roberts,¹⁵ William Witcher, Henry Williams, John Salmon, Rev'd Lewis Guillian,¹⁶ Richard Walden,¹⁷ Peter Saunders,¹⁸ John Wilson, and Crispin Shelton.¹⁹

"The Committee then proceeded to make choice of Robert Williams for their chairman and William Peters Martin their Clerk.

"During the time of choosing the said committee, the utmost good order and harmony was observed, and all the inhabitants of the county then present (which was very numerous) seemed determined and resolute in defending their liberties and properties, at the risk of their lives, and if required, to die by their fellow sufferers (the Bostonians) whose cause

estate, "Cherry Grove," near Straightstone. Stephen Clement's will proven in 1856, named among other children daughter Anne Denham Clement, wife of Rawley Thompson.

¹⁵Gabriel Shelton was the son of Crispin Shelton. His will was proven June 1803, naming sons Wyatt, Gregory, Gabriel, Beverley and Samuel. His home was at Chalk Level, joining the lands of Pannell and Buford.

¹⁶Peter Wilson was a brother of Col. John Wilson, and a son of Peter Wilson, Sr., of Wilson's Ferry. His will was proven November 16, 1801, in which he named wife Sarah, children Ellis, John, Jiles, Peter, William, Meade, Betsy and Nanny.

¹⁷Joseph Roberts was probably the son of Joseph Roberts, Sr., whose will was proven at Henry Courthouse in 1778, naming sons John, James and Joseph, Jr.

¹⁸Rev'd Lewis Guillian was the minister of the Established Church of Camden Parish, Pittsylvania.

¹⁹Richard Walden, married Candace Hubbard and his will, proven in 1790, named wife Candace, sons John, Charles and Richard; daughters Lucy Hudson, Milly, Mourning, Fanny Bobbitt, Mary Whitworth, and Elizabeth Ballard—"The history of the Walden family is traced from John Walden, son of Lord John Walden of Ravensworth Castle, England, who settled in Leyton, Essex County, Virginia, in 1715, moved later to his home Walden Towers in Caroline, site of which is about nine miles from Bowling Green." A legal firm of Baltimore was employed by the descendants of Lord Walden in Virginia to recover their share in the English estate, but the property had been taken over by the Crown, and the castle converted into a museum (Early's "Campbell County"). Richard Walden's home was in the northern part of the county, near Staunton River, and he bequeathed the Manor Plantation to his son Charles, who married Elizabeth Wall, daughter of Col. Charles F. Wall, by whom he had issue: Martha married Joel L. Adams, Mary married Vincent Snow, Polly married Thomas Goggin, Tabitha married John Ward of Edge Hill, and Richard H. Walden.

In the Halifax wills there is the will of a Samuel Walden, dated 1779, naming sons Richard, Owen, William, Lewis and Elijah.

¹⁸Peter Saunders lived at "Bleak Hill," on the head waters of Pigg River, in that part of the county that later became Franklin. His will, proven December 1, 1817, named sons: 1. Fleming married Miss Watts and were the grandparents of Judge Edward Saunders of the Virginia Supreme Court. 2. Robert. 3. Samuel married Mary Ingles. 4. Peter, born 1774, died in Pittsylvania County, 1846, unmarried. After his death his adopted daughter, Miss Jane Saunders, purchased Belle Grove and there he and Miss Jane are buried.

¹⁹In 1762 Crispin Shelton patented 3,000 acres in Pittsylvania along Panther, now Whitethorn Creek, where he settled. His will was proven in February, 1794, in which he bequeathed:

To son Abraham Shelton, six slaves.

To son Gabriel Shelton, four slaves.

To son Lewis Shelton, four slaves.

To son Beverley Shelton, four slaves.

To son Spencer Shelton, four slaves.

To son Armisted Shelton, four slaves.

To son Vincent Shelton, four slaves, also watch and Bible Burket and all lands.

To daughters Elizabeth Hurt, Jane Todd wife of William Todd, Susanna Dickerson wife of Griffith Dickerson, four slaves each.

Crispin Shelton was the son of Ralph Shelton and his wife Mary Pollard of Middlesex County, who were probably married about 1712 for the Parish Register of the County gives the following entries concerning their children:

Crispin, son of Ralph and Mary Shelton, born April 1, 1713, baptized May 17, 1713.

John, son of Ralph and Mary Shelton, born July 19, 1722, baptized August 12, 1722.

Benjamin, son of Ralph and Mary Shelton, born June 18, 1724, baptized July 12, 1724.

Daniel, son of Ralph and Mary Shelton, born May 17, 1729, baptized June 22, 1729.

Ralph Shelton was the son of Sarah Shelton and Richard Gassage of New Kent, and he for some reason retained his mother's maiden name. Tradition says that Sarah Shelton and Richard Shelton were the emigrant children of a ship's captain who was drowned in the English Channel in 1691. After the death of her husband Mrs. Sarah Shelton Gassage married in 1703 Joseph Bickley, of King William County, who was first sheriff of Louisa County.

they consider their own, and it being mentioned in committee that this county had never contributed their proportionable part towards defraying the expenses of the Delegates who attended on our behalf at the Gen'l Congress, that sum was immediately and cheerfully raised and deposited in the hands of Peter Perkins and Benjamin Lankford, Esquires, the Representatives for the said county, to be transmitted by them to whom it ought to have been paid; after which the committee rose, and several loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk, and the company dispersed, well pleased with the behavior of those people they had put their confidence in.

"Ordered that a copy of the above proceeding be inserted in the Virginia Newspapers.

"William Peters Martin, Clerk of the Committee."

The Association was carried out actively and thoroughly in Virginia, where each county was organized as a unit and comprised a little world of its own. In this way toryism was given no chance to develop and Virginia stood solidly for the patriot cause. Feeling at the time was very intense and people were filled with burning zeal for the cause of liberty.

These County Committees of Safety as they were called entered upon their duties with whole-hearted enthusiasm and not only enforced the articles of the Association, but spied out and put down any pro-British sentiment that arose in the county; and at the same time organized the county for military defense. At the least word or action that could be construed to be unfriendly to the patriot cause, the offending individual was summoned to appear before the committee and if no satisfactory explanation could be given, the offender was published in the newspapers as being "inimical to the cause." This was very drastic and severe treatment for it meant a boycott by one's friends and neighbors.

"If the offense taken cognizance of by the county committees had been limited to those set forth in the Continental Association little more could be said in criticism of these bodies than that they discharged their duties somewhat over zealously. Even this criticism would have to be qualified for revolution by its very nature can not tolerate difference of opinion: it means the victory of a part of the population over another part—a triumph of organization no less than arms. The local committees in Virginia, as well as in other colonies where political dissent was potentially dangerous from a military point of view, were driven to suppress loyalist opinion. Committees summoned offenders for intemperate speeches and punished them as ruthlessly as for actual violations of the Association, which in time came to be regarded as a law rather than a boycott.

Examinations of persons for political opinions occurred in all parts of the colony, proving that there were people everywhere attached to Great Britain. Social position and wealth—in all other ways a very great power in Virginia—failed usually to protect such offenders, who long before the Declaration of Independence were regarded as traitors.” (Echenrode, pp. 104-106.)

On account of the tax that had been laid on tea, the drinking of tea was banned, to partake of the beverage was considered a virtual act of treason. Captain John Pigg,²⁰ a vestryman and captain of the local militia, was reported to the committee as one who had violated the Association “by drinking and making use of in his family the detestable East Indian tea.” When summoned to appear before the Committee in May 1776, Captain Pigg boldly refused, considering it an impertinent interference in his family affairs and replied that, “he would do as he pleased.” In their righteous indignation the Committee at once published him in the *Gazette* as being “inimical to the cause.”

After the royal government under the English governor was dissolved Virginia called a convention to take over its powers, which met at Richmond in July, 1775, and at which Pittsylvania was represented by Peter Perkins and Benjamin Lankford. Immediate action was taken to put the colony in a state of defense—two regiments of 1,000 men were authorized to be raised for the Northern Continental Army under General Washington, a body of Minute Men for the State's defense, while the militia was to be reorganized.

In order that the troops called for the Continental Army might be equally proportioned among the several counties, the state was divided into sixteen military districts, of which Pittsylvania, Bedford, Botetourt and Fincastle formed one district and were allotted to furnish one captain, two lieutenants and sixty-eight men, who were to be expert riflemen and attached to the regiments. Each of the sixteen military districts was called upon to raise a battalion of 500 Minute Men, to be divided into ten companies of 50 men each, under the command of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, and major. In order to render the men “more expert in military exercise,” they were to be trained for twenty days under the adjutant as soon as enlisted, then four days out of each month, with a general muster in the district spring and fall lasting twelve days.

²⁰John Pigg was the son of Paul Pigg of Amelia County, who moved to Pittsylvania when a very old man, and whose will is the first on record in the Clerk's Office. John Pigg was an early settler and Pigg River was named for him. He married Anne Clement and his will was proven February 1785, in which he bequeathed to his only son Hezekiah Ford Pigg the mill tract, his two guns, rifle and silver buckles.

In addition to these military forces “it was adjudged necessary in the present time of danger” that all free male persons between the ages of eighteen and fifty should be trained for military duty, and be formed into companies of militia of not less than thirty-two nor more than sixty-eight men. That every militia man should furnish himself with a good rifle, or tomahawk, common firelock, bayonet, pouch or cartouch box, and three charges of powder and ball; and further that the companies should be drilled every two weeks, with a general county muster in April and October.

The Committee of Safety for Pittsylvania proceeded at once to organize the county for military defense. The military strength of the county was given in a census of 1774 as 1438 men, and these were organized into twenty-seven companies. The record reads:

“At a meeting of the Committee of Pittsylvania County on Wednesday the 27th, September, 1775, the following gentlemen were nominated as officers of the militia agreeable to the Ordinance of the Convention, viz.:

“John Donelson, Esq.—County Lieutenant.

“Robert Williams, Esq.—Colonel.

“William Tunstall, Esq.—Lieutenant-Colonel.

“John Wilson, Esq.—Major.

“Captains: Benjamin Lankford, Peter Perkins, Francis Luck,²¹ James Lyons, Robert Hairston,²² Robert Woods, Daniel Shelton, Jesse Heard,²³ Frederick Rives, John Donelson, Jr., Archelaus Hughes,²⁴ Joseph Martin,²⁵ John Dix, William Witcher, Gabriel Shelton, Henry

²¹Francis Luck's will was proven July 17, 1781, naming wife Sarah, sons John, Nathaniel, Richard Hubbard; daughters Joyce, Rhoda, Betty, Sarah, Anne Deadman, Lucy, Katy Evans Luck. His home was in the eastern part of the county at a point now known as “Lucks,” though the mansion house has long since disappeared. The place was noted for its elaborate and beautifully laid out gardens, which surrounded the house; unfortunately these too have disappeared.

²²Robert Hairston, the son of Peter Hairston, a Scotchman of Albemarle County, lived in that part of Pittsylvania that later became Henry County. He married Ruth Stovall, the daughter of George Stovall, and left three sons, Peter and George of Henry County, and Samuel of Franklin County.

²³Stephen Heard's will was proven at Pittsylvania Courthouse November, 1774. He named wife Mary, children Jesse Heard, Stephen Heard, George Heard, Mary Heard, Anne Gwillim, Susannah Standiford.

²⁴Archelous Hughes settled in the western part of Pittsylvania that later became Patrick County. He married Mary, daughter of Samuel Dalton, and had issue: Leander, Archelous, William, Jane, John, Samuel, Reuben, Nancy, Madison Redd, Sally, who married Col. Joe Martin, Matilda who married Gen'l John Dillard.

²⁵Joseph Martin had been a “long hunter,” of Albemarle County. In 1774 he purchased a plantation in Pittsylvania on Leatherwood Creek to which he moved. He was active in Indian affairs along the frontier, and acted as Indian agent for Virginia for a number of years. He married, 1st, Sarah Lucas and, 2nd, Susanna Graves, leaving the following children: Susanna, William, Elizabeth, Brice, Joseph, Jesse, Thomas, Lewis and Alexander. He served many years in the Virginia Legislature.

Williams, John Salmon, Robert Payne,²⁶ Jonathan Hanby, William Peters Martin, Jehu Morton,²⁷ Charles Connors, Richard Gwynne, John Smith, Edmund Lyne, Joshua Abston,²⁸ and James Hix; Lieutenants: Stephen Coleman, Joseph Terry, Thomas Withers, William Ward, Robert Boreman, Thomas Smith, Charles Burke, Bartlett Williams, Samuel Shields, John Strong, Spencer Shelton, Reuben Payne, Beverley Shelton, John Morton, Isaac Clement, James George, Tully Choice, Jr., Edmund Cheat, Thomas Jones, Sr., George Hairston, Bryce Martin, David Lanier, George Waller, John Cunningham, Frederick Fulkerson, Elisha Shelton, Benjamin Hursely; Ensigns: Charles Irby, Joseph Terry (son of Joseph), George Carter, William Been, Samuel Bolling, Thomas Black, John Wynne, William Dix, John Fulton, Thomas Smith, Edmund Taylor, Armisted Shelton, John Payne, Lyrus Roberts, William Short, Joseph Farrar, William Estes, Levinfield Heit, Peter Vardaman, James Potet, John Wells, James Taylor, James Anthony, David Chockwell, John Parr, Leonard Carter, John Rentfro."

With such extensive military plans as the state had called for, we may know that the men of Pittsylvania County spent a great part of their time in the autumn and winter of '75-76 on the various musterfields of the county.

The *Virginia Gazette* gives an incident of Pittsylvania life at this time, showing that youth and age alike were bending every effort to prepare for the struggle with the mother country. In the issue of August 1775, there is a statement by Mr. Charles Lynch, whose home lay across Staunton River, in Campbell County (not far from Altavista), in which he said:

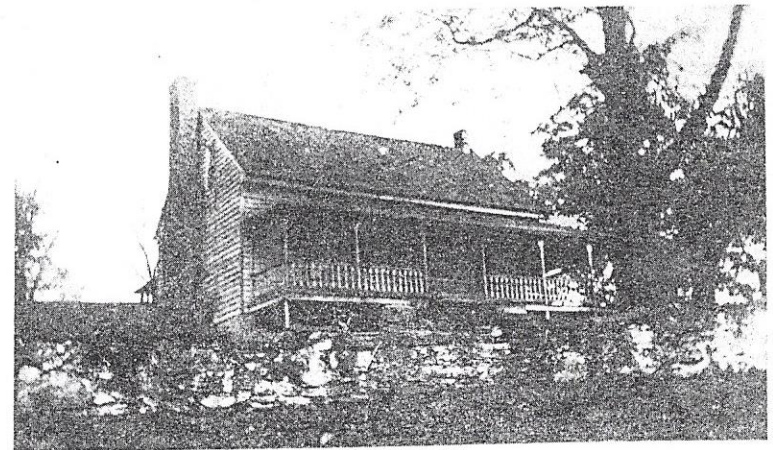
"Sometime ago my having made powder was mentioned in your paper, but as I wish for no more merit (should there be any in it) than

²⁶Robert Payne was the son of Josias Payne of Goochland and Pittsylvania, whose will was probated at Pittsylvania Courthouse December 19, 1785, in which he bequeathed his estate as follows:

To son John, 200 acres on Little Birch Creek and 400 on James River.
To son William, 400 acres in Fluvanna.
To son Josias, 700 in Goochland.
To son George, 200 acres in Goochland and 200 on the Three Chopt Road.
To Robert, 800 acres in Goochland, the plantation I formerly lived on.
He named daughters, Susanna, wife of William Heale; Anne, wife of William Harrison (of Pittsylvania County) and Agnes Michel. Robert Payne married in July 22, 1763, Anne Burton of Goochland and had issue: 1. Charles Payne. 2. Robert Payne. 3. John Payne. 4. Elizabeth Payne. 5. Keturah Payne. 6. Anne Payne. And 7. Agnes Payne, married Mamaduke Williams.
Colonel John Payne, a brother of Josias Payne, the elder, married Mary Coles, the daughter of William Coles of Coles's Hill of Hanover County, and were the parents of Dolly Payne, who later became the fascinating Dolly Madison.

²⁷Jehu Morton was one of the sons of Joseph Morton, Sr., one of the earliest settlers of the County.

²⁸Joshua Abston was the son of Francis Abston, whose will was proven in Halifax in 1762, naming sons William, John, Jesse and Joshua Abston. John Ward was a witness to the will. Joshua Abston married Rachel Clement, a daughter of Capt. Benj. Clement and moved to South Carolina.



CLEMENT HILL

Home of Capt. Benjamin Clement who first settled here in 1748
The porches are modern additions

I deserve, I inform the public that Mr. Benjamin Clement²⁹ is a partner with me in making the powder, and that he was the first in the colony I have heard of who attempted to make it, altho' he did not bring it to perfection. Since our partnership we have brought it to such perfection with salt-petre of our own making that the best riflemen approve of it; and with the little mill we now have, we can make fifty pound weight a day. Salt-petre only is wanting which may very easily be made by observing the following directions; and when it is considered how much we want powder and that salt-petre is the principal ingredient, it is hoped that those who have the good of their country at heart will exert themselves in making it. Without it we can have no powder, consequently no means of defense; but with it we shall soon have both. I am sir, your very humble servant.

Charles Lynch,³⁰

August 5, 1775."

Then followed directions for making salt petre by digging up the dirt floors of old meat houses, boiling the soil and straining the liquor through straw in a process somewhat similar to making lye from wood ashes.

Mr. Benjamin Clement lived on Staunton River at "Clement Hill" (now owned by John Hurt, Jr.), and was an old man of some seventy-five years. Captain Clement and Colonel Lynch were neighbors, and together

²⁹Captain Benjamin Clement, born 1700, was the son of William Clement of King William County, who in 1735 patented 1,225 acres in Amelia County and moved with his family to the latter. William Clement was justice of the peace and sheriff of Amelia. His will, proven in 1760, named sons Benjamin, William, John and Francis; daughters Elizabeth Ford Ellyson, Anne and Barsheba Major.

Benjamin Clement married Susanna Hill, daughter of Col. Isaac Hill of King and Queen County and moved with his family to Pittsylvania (then Lunenburg) in 1748, establishing his home at Clement Hill, a sharp knoll overlooking Staunton River. The knoll was an excellent site for a pioneer settlement in the wilderness, for its elevation commanded a view of the river and countryside around and could be well defended against marauding bands of Indians. Captain Clement died in 1780 and is buried at the foot of Clement Hill; his estate was appraised at £27,604. In his will he named wife Susanna, and children: 1. Stephen Clement. 2. Isaac Clement, married Anne Denham. 3. Adam Clement, married Agnes Johnson of Louisa County. 4. James Clement. 5. Benjamin Clement. 6. John Clement. 7. Rachel Clement, married Capt. Joshua Abston. 8. Elizabeth Clement, married Isaac Butterworth. 9. Susanna Clement, married William Evans.

The old mansion house at Clement Hill, with its corner fireplaces, typifies a very early period of architecture. Charles Clement, a son of Adam and Agnes Clement inherited the place; in 1803 he married Miss Nancy Hanby of Patrick and made his home there. The property passed into the possession of John L. Hurt, through his marriage with Nannie Clement, granddaughter of Charles Clement, Sr., and daughter of Charles Clement, Jr., and his wife Lucy Hunt.

³⁰Colonel Charles Lynch was the son of Charles Lynch, Sr., Burgess for Albemarle County, and his wife Sarah daughter of Col. Christopher Clark of Louisa Co. Charles Lynch, Jr., married in 1755 Anna Terrell and settled on Staunton River, about a mile below Altavista. He represented Bedford County in the House of Burgesses from 1767-75; was justice of peace and colonel of the militia; he died October 29, 1796, age 60 years, and is buried in the garden at Avoca, his home. Col. Charles Lynch and his wife Anne Terrell had issue: 1. John Lynch, moved to Tennessee. 2. Anselm Lynch married Susan Miller, their daughter Mary Anne Lynch married James Dearing and were the parents of General James Dearing of the Confederate Army, Mary Dearing who married Captain Thomas Fauntleroy and Susan Dearing who married Judge Robert Ward. 3. Charles Lynch, the third, moved to Kentucky.

Avoca, the beautiful old home of Col. Lynch, is owned to-day by the family of Captain Thomas Fauntleroy and his wife Mary Dearing.

succeeded in producing a gun powder of good quality. And since the first efforts to make it were at "Clement Hill," it is more than probable that the mill that turned out 50 pounds a day was also located there, and on Sycamore Creek, which divided the plantation.

At the Virginia Convention of December, 1775, six more regiments were authorized to be raised, each regiment to consist of ten companies of sixty-eight men each. Pittsylvania was called upon for one full company with captain, lieutenant and ensign.

Since the eastern part of the state was felt to be in an exposed condition by reason of its many navigable streams, the eight regiments were ordered to be stationed as follows: two between the Potomac and Rappahannock, two between the Rappahannock and York, two between the York and the James; and two on the south side of the James River.

CHAPTER XI

THE REVOLUTION IN PITTSYLVANIA IN 1776

Having gained some idea of the number of troops called from Pittsylvania in the first days of the war, let us see how many names of those brave soldiers history has preserved for us.

A company of Regulars marched from Pittsylvania early in 1776, commanded by Captain Thomas Hutchings,¹ Lieutenant James Conway² and Ensign Harden Perkins.

In an old military order book at the University of Virginia are the following items:

"April 4, 1776. Certificate of Review of the Pittsylvania County Regulars of Captain Hutchings.

"June 1776. Warrent to Captain Thomas Hutchings for £107.15 for men of the 6th Regiment whilst in the country and for blankets, leggins, horses and hunting shirts.

"June 17, 1776. Captain Hutchings of the 6th Battalion took the Oath, subscribed the Test and received his Continental Commission."

The oath³ here mentioned was required of all officers and soldiers and read: "I, _____, do swear that I will be faithful and true to the colony and dominion of Virginia; and that I will serve the same to the utmost of my power, in defence of the just rights of America, against all enemies whatsoever."

The State Regulars were put under the command of General Andrew Lewis, and we have seen how they were ordered to be stationed between the large rivers in eastern Virginia. The 6th Regiment to which the Pittsylvania company belonged was stationed at Williamsburg and the Orderly Book⁴ for "that part of the American Army stationed at Wil-

¹Captain Thomas Hutchings was the son of Christopher Hutchings, who lived near Concord; an early road leading in that direction was known as the Hutchings Road. Christopher Hutchings' will was probated May 20, 1807, in which he named wife Elizabeth, children: John Hutchings, deceased. Thomas Hutchings. Aaron Hutchings. Charles Hutchings. Moses Hutchings. James Hutchings. Mildred, the wife of Bryon W. Nowling. Anne, the wife of Samuel Dillard. Jemima, the wife of Joshua Welch.

Thomas Hutchings was an early surveyor of Halifax and Pittsylvania. He married Catherin Donelson, daughter of Colonel John Donelson and had issue: 1. Captain John Hutchings, born 1775, died 1817, a business partner of President Andrew Jackson. 2. Lemuel Hutchings married Miss Owen. 3. Christopher Hutchings. 4. Rachel Hutchings. 5. Mary Hutchings. 6. Elizabeth Hutchings. 7. Jenny Hutchings. 8. Thomas Hutchings. 9. Stockley Donelson Hutchings, married Elizabeth Atwood, and their daughter Elizabeth Hutchings married Andrew Jackson Coffee, son of General John Coffee.

²There is an order for a Warrent of £9 to be issued to Ensign Perkins for himself and Lieutenant Conway of Captain Hutchings' Company of the 6th Regiment, for two tents.

³Hening's "Statutes."

⁴To be found in the State Library.