

The Battle of Alamance

By Jeannette Holland Austin



Did you know that the Battle of Alamance fought on May 16, 1771 shed the first blood of the struggle for American Independence? It is said that the shots fired at Lexington were "heard around the world." but let it not be forgotten that almost four years before the day of Lexington, shots were fired at Alamance, and that Lexington continued the fight. William Tryon, the Royal Governor of North Carolina, was referred to as the "wolf" because he oppressed the people of his province to the point where they were obliged to do one or two things, viz: resist him or become slaves. A group of patriots resolved to resist and formed themselves into an organization known as "Regulators." 2,000 to 3,000 arose partly armed and met the forces of the royal Governor at Alamance. "Lay down your guns or I will fire!" shouted the British commander. "Fire and be damned!" shouted back the leader of the Regulators. However, the Regulators were defeated and dispersed.

The Alamance Region

John LedererDr. John Lederer was a German physician and was an explorer. As early as 1670, he tread the trading paths belonging to the Native Americans and observed the Oenocks or Enos near (now) Hillsborough and wrote a description of the Alamance region. "Fourteen miles West Southwest of the Oenocks dwell the Shackory Indians upon a rich Soyl, and yet abounding in antimony, of which they shewed me considerable quantities. Finding them agree with the Oenocks in Customs and Manners, I made no stay here, but passing thorow their town."

Lateron, John Lawson, a British citizen, explored the Carolinas during the early 18th century to explore its plant life and observed the Indian tribes in the region. Source: A New Voyage to Carolina by John Lawson.

Those Who Came to Burlington, North Carolina

BurlingtonThe city of Burlington is located in the Piedmont district of North Carolina. Nearby is its mountain region which includes the beautiful Appalachian Mountains. During the 18th century many settlers were traveling the "Great Wagon Road" down from Pennsylvania. Many of these settlers were either English or Irish Quakers,Scotch-Irish Presbyterian, or German Lutherans. Early settlers had to contend with the Native Indians being pushed westward. Then, the local government lauded iniquitable taxation upon the land which caused the Regulation Movement of 1766. During this movement, the people of Alamance County formed a militia to battle the state government, a skirmish which lasted about two hours. The state militia under the command of the Royal Governor Tyron defeated the Regulators and reached an agreement which restored peace.