

ROBERT COLEMAN OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH
CAROLINA, AND HIS BROTHER, FRANCIS (FRANK)

NOTE:

On Saturday, August 9, 1969, I had an opportunity which I had sought for years - a personal examination of the Lyman Draper papers at the Wisconsin State Library, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

I there found a letter written Mr. Draper by E. H. Herbert of Haynesville, Alabama. Mr. Herbert was a grandson of Major John Hampton.

I examined the original letter, Volume 2, Series UU, 223-225. It reads as follows:

"Haynesville, Alabama
Sept 1st 1874

Lyman C. Draper, Esqr.

Dear Sir,

Yours of Augt 20th was recd several days since, whilst I was confined to my bed by sickness, which prevented me from answering earlyer.

The circumstances of the capture of the Hamptons [Maj. John Hampton and Gen. Wade Hampton] alluded to by my Brother is the same

I feel sure that I mentioned in a former letter.

This Bob Coleman is the Tory I alluded to in a former letter as having visited my father's house after the war closed; and related to my mother the manner in which he had treated her father and the kind treatment he had received from her father after the close of the War. Bob Coleman & his brother Frank were prominent men among the Tories, whether officers or not I am unable to say. Frank left So. Carolina before my recollection, moved to Georgia. Two of his sons moved to this State at an early period. I lived near one of them several years, heard him on one occasion speak of Wade Hampton's having broken up his father after the close of the revolution. I asked him no questions in regard to the grounds of the suit, but supposed from what I had heard that it was for property the Tories robbed him of; I think Wade Hampton brought suit against a number of the Tories and recovered damages. All the Hamptons suffered serious losses by the Tories; don't think any except Wade made any effort to recover anything.

Bob Coleman continued in Fairfield to the day of his death. I have some recollection of seeing the old man. He raised some Eight sons that I can now recollect. The most of them were still living there when my father left that state. The Hamptons were relieved of their captivity by Genl. Winn, as stated in a former letter. My information

is that they were captured some where below Mobley's Meeting house and that their captors had set out with them toward N. Carolina, with the intention of turning them over to the British Commander. When they reached Mobley's Meeting House they camped for the night. Gen. Winn having been informed of the capture, went immediately in pursuit and finding them encamped made a charge, firing a few guns, and the Tories fled in all directions, leaving the prisoners in the meeting house. One poor fellow started to run down a very steep place, fell and broke his back, don't know his name. I understood that one poor negro was accidentally shot and killed in the house. The Winns and Hamptons were related.

Very Truly Yours,

E. H. Herbert"

SECOND NOTE BY J. P. COLEMAN:

The above letter discusses other matters not related to the Colemans and these portions of the letter are omitted from this copy.

The significant thing is that the writer knew Robert Coleman personally, knew his sons, and knew that he was a brother of Frank (Francis) Coleman. This also shows that

Francis Coleman was not a Revolutionary Soldier in the Continental Army. Mrs. Mary Bryan, Director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, stated to me most categorically that Francis Coleman did not fight under General Clark in the Revolution. At pages 85-86 of the original Coleman book I accepted the DAR lineage records to the contrary. It now appears that Mrs. Bryan was right.

According to the Draper papers the following soldiers were with General Winn in the attack at Mobley's: Joseph Morrow, of Chester District, William White, of Chester District, David Sadler, and Francis Wylie.

Other material, found in the Draper papers, follows (identifying the location of Mobley's Meeting House).

Mobley's Meeting House
affair - June, 1780.

Chestnut Wood - Caw

Apr 21st 1873.

Gynew C. Dodger -

Dear Sir,

I made inquiry of
some persons, who recollect some
additional facts in reference to
the battle at Mobley's meeting-house
in Fairfield County, and am
informed that Col. B. Coleman
of Fairfield County, was in command
of the Tories at that place, at that
time, that Barbace Woodward, one
of the Tories, jumped out of the window
of the Church during the attack &
broke his back: and that quite a
number of negroes belonging to
Gen. Hampton & others of South

No rendezvous of royalists was appointed to take place on the thirtieth of June, and the Whigs had made their arrangements for a simultaneous attack on that station. The Whigs had the utmost confidence in their leaders and were united by all honorable motives, as friends, neighbors, and brother-patriots. The expedition was judiciously arranged and perfectly executed as it had been planned. The Royalists being taken by surprise, broke and dispersed, at the first fire. Very few were killed or wounded on either side. Among other property recovered were about one hundred horses, which were restored to their respective owners, and kept with more care thereafter out of the reach of the enemy. The mother of Colonel McClure recovered five or six of her horses and other residents in proportion. This was the first resistance made in South Carolina to the British arms, after the capitulation of Charleston. Hutcheson's defeat followed in about ten days after it; and opposition was then kept up, on a greater scale, by Sumter, Marion, Pickens, Harden, and others—their forces being thus increased and encouraged by the patriotism, bravery, and success of the first adventurers.

Cardinals, were captured within
a mile or two from the Church
and delivered to their respective
owners, besides a large number
of horses,

If these facts are of any
value to you, they are gladly
furnished, and any other
service, I may be able to
render in the matter, I will
furnish with pleasure,

Yours Respectfully,

W. A. Macleay

THE BATTLE OF MOBLEY'S MEETING-HOUSE.

[CHARLESTON, 18th Augt, 1859.

DEAR SIR: Some time ago, you enquired of me for a description of the Attack on a party of Royalists at Mobley's Meeting-house, by a party of Americans. Domestic affliction prevented me from paying earlier attention to the subject, and I now offer an imperfect sketch of its origin, progress, and result. It may aid in your collection of such matters, and I submit it with fears that it may be too late if not otherwise useless for your purposes.

In your first number, giving the description of the Battles of Lexington and Concord, you give several references to the description or narrative of Ensign and of Lieutenant Do Berniers. We presume that they were the same person, but the christian or given name is not mentioned. If it was John Do Berniers we have some of his descendants among us, and they would be glad to know where his narrative may be seen and if any copy of it can be procured.

I remain very respectfully, Yours,

Mr. H. B. Dawson.

JOH. JOHNSON.]

About the middle of June, 1780, or one month after the surrender of Charleston to the British Army and Navy, Colonel Richard Winn heard of an intended meeting of the Royalists at this point, in the Northern portion of South Carolina. It stands on the road which leads to Chesterville, about fifteen miles South-west of that village, just where that road crosses the Southern branch of Little-river, but is in Fairfield District. This had become a place of rendezvous for the Tories, during the siege; and, after the surrender of Charleston to the British forces, much of the plunder taken from the Whigs was there paid for and delivered to British Agents. One of them had appointed the proposed meeting at this point.

Colonel Winn called on his neighbor, Colonel William Bratton, and proposed that they should unite in the surprise of those Tories. After some consultation, it was agreed that as their friends united were but little more than thirty, they would go together to Colonel John McClure of Chester District, residing near Rocky Mount, and propose his co-operation. Here they again numbered their probable adherents, and, although many were well-disposed, not more than sixty could be relied on for the expedition, still they determined to proceed with that or any such number. The leaders in this expedition had the utmost confidence in the patriotism and bravery of their respective followers, but some of them had been disarmed by the British agents and adherents; while others were incited by injuries and provocations, in the seizure of their horses and cattle, and by personal feelings and apprehensions, to join in the expedition, hoping to recover their property or a part of it.

The rendezvous of Royalists was appointed to take place on the thirtieth of June, and the Whigs had made their arrangements for a simultaneous attack on that station. The Whigs had the utmost confidence in their leaders and were united by all honorable motives, as friends, neighbors, and brother-patriots. The expedition was judiciously arranged and perfectly executed as it had been planned. The Royalists being taken by surprise, broke and dispersed, at the first fire. Very few were killed or wounded on either side. Among other property recovered were about one hundred horses, which were restored to their respective owners, and kept with more care thereafter out of the reach of the enemy. The mother of Colonel McClure recovered five or six of her horses and other residents in proportion. This was the first resistance made in South Carolina to the British arms, after the capitulation of Charleston. Huck's defeat followed, in about ten days after it; and opposition was then kept up, on a greater scale, by Sumter, Marion, Pickens, Harden, and others—their forces being thus increased and encouraged by the patriotism, bravery, and success of the first adventurers.