BATTLE OF MOBLEY'S MEETING HOUSE

The Battle of Mobley's Meeting House was a very important battle in the American Revolution and the *one of* first victory *was* for the Patriots, after the fall of Charleston. Even before Tarleton had overtaken Buford, the Tories had begun to gather, organize, and make frequent raids in many sections.

Three days before the massacre in the Waxhaws, on May 26, 1780, a body of Tories from their little garrison nearby, collected at Mobley's Meeting House in the Mobley Settlement on Little River, 12 miles west of Winnsboro in the present county of Fairfield, but were immediately attacked, dispersed and completely routed, by a band of Whigs under Colonel William Bratton of York, Major Richard Winn of Winnsborough, and Captain John McClure of Chester. The Battle of Mobley's Meeting House seems to have been a vital turning point for the patriots and brought great hope for future success which was mentioned by General Sumter with much pride.

When the people of the up-country could no longer stand the brutality of Tarleton's soldiers and camp followers, nor the dominant and urgent orders of Cornwallis to take up arms for the British Army and Ministry, these brave and courageous patriots absolutely refused and at once joined the bands of American soldiers under the great South Carolina Partisan leaders, Generals Marion, Sumter, and Pickens, and showed in the darkest hours that even tho' the soil of their colony might be overrun, the spirit of her people was invincible.

With true determination, and indomitable will, and a ready knowledge of all parts of their vast country, especially of the wilderness and waters, their deadly shots in this peculiar type of warfare and their secret maneuvers any time and anywhere, were just the necessary means to arrest the seemingly conquering Cornwallis on his march through the South on a northward course to meet General Washington. Edward Mobley and his six sons, along with many others from this county, took part and were brave and faithful soldiers of the Revolution, giving valuable service in all phases of this great conflict for the cause of freedom, liberty, and justice.

The first settlers built their homes near the margins of creeks and rivers and so did the Mobleys who settled on Poplar Ridge on the east side of Beaver Creek, later moving a few miles further to the east, where they located their homes, built a fort and near it erected the Mobley Meeting House, thus forming a regular Mobley settlement with much land, forests and water.

The Mobleys came to America from England and were some of the earliest pioneers to settle in Fairfield County and the colony of South Carolina. Edward Mobley and his wife, Susannah DeRuel Mobley from Virginia, came first about 1758 or 1761. Theirs was a large family of six sons and six daughters with their children. Also, along with the group were Edward Mobley's brothers and sisters and their families which made quite a caravan of pioneers.

Edward Mobley, the Patriarch of the family, was descended from Sir Edward Mobley of England and was a son of William Mobley and Phoebe Lovejoy Mobley, both of whom came to America on one of William Penn's ships. The Mobleys were highly educated, cultured, thrifty and self sustaining - many of them became very wealthy, had big plantations and beautiful homes, and always took an active part in the affairs of their beloved new country. The erection of their Meeting House, which was one of the first, was a privilege - they loved it, appreciated it, worshipped in it, and shared it with other denominations. It seemed to be the real foundation, upon which they were building new homes, and new lives in a new world, where there were hardships and sacrifices.

The Battle of Mobley's Meeting House and this marker represent the faith they had in God and kept as builders in this great land of ours. Near the head waters of Little River on the old Mobley Plantation, signs of the exact location of this historic Meeting House are still seen, with a narrow road winding through the forest somewhat like the early trails cut by these pioneers. It is an historic landmark to be preserved with much pride, which was fought for by these brave ancestors, friends, and citizens.

This memorial marker represents the heroic realm of the past, ever to be remembered, and it is a reminder of the great heritage that is ours, with a challenge, as we look into the years of the far distant future.

from the Indians. A young man by the name of James Phillips went out with
a hunting party, and on his return, near the fort, he shot a rattlesnake,
which, on examination, was found to have a fawn in its stomach. This
circumstance (observes D. A. Coleman, Esq.) has been related to me by Phillips
himself, and by a number of others who saw the snake when brought into the fort
and the fawn taken out of it. From the good character these men had among their
neighbors as men of veracity, and my own long acquaintance with Phillips, I
have no doubt but that he killed the snake and that it had the fawn in its
stomach. " (Albert Beam, witness). Page 554.

(Note the reference in this early history to David Roe Coleman,
who married Edith Beam, and his brother-in-law, Albert Beam.)

"Fort Waggoner was erected on Beaver Creek, 6 miles above its mouth,
and into this the poor scattered inhabitants flocked and received its protection
until the end of the Cherokee War, and their meat was obtained by hunting, and
their bread was brought on pack mules from the Congaree."

Just south of where Beaver Creek crosses Highway # 215, a handsome
granite marker has been erected by Richard Winn Chapter, Daughters of the
American Revolution, with the following inscription:

FORT WAGNER

Site one mile East, at Junction of

Beaver Creek and Reedy Branch. Built

in 1760 by Hans Wagner, as a refuge from

the Cherokee Indians."

This marker is about one mile West of the site of the fort.

Also from MILLS STATICTICS:

"Broad River was called originally Eswaw Huppeedaw, or Line River,
because it was the dividing line between the/Cherokee and Catawba Indians.
empires of