

The Revolutionary War Battle of Guilford Courthouse



took place in North Carolina on March 15, 1781. It proved pivotal to the American victory in the War (1775-83).

Although British troops under Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis scored a tactical victory at the Guilford

Courthouse over the American forces under Major General Nathanael Greene, the British suffered significant



troop losses during the battle. Afterward, Cornwallis abandoned his campaign for the Carolinas and instead took his army into Virginia, where in October of that year he surrendered to General George Washington following the Battle of Yorktown, the last major land battle of the war.

Capt. John Buchanan's great-grandson, F. G. Buchanan, wrote that Capt. John had been in the Battle of King's Mountain on October 7, 1780, which Thomas Jefferson proclaimed "was the turning point of the American Revolution." The book *"Smyth County History"* records that Captain John Buchanan "was wounded at the battle of Guilford Court House, brought home, and died of the wound" (in approximately 1781-83).

However, that appears to be incorrect, since on November 25, 1795, Captain John signed a petition to form what became Tazewell County, Virginia. Also, in the Washington County, Virginia "Entries and Survey Book 1" (pages 104 and 113), and the Wythe County, Virginia "Deed Book 5" (pages 131, 132, and 236), and "Deed Book 4" (page 387) the records indicate that Captain John Buchanan gave his son Patrick 274 acres on the North Fork of the Holston River on June 21, 1806. Five days later, on June 26, he gave 128 acres in Locust Cove to his son John Buchanan, Jr., and two plots of 148 acres each to his son James Buchanan — one plot in Locust Cove and another on the North Fork of the Holston River. [NOTE: He may have anticipated he was near his death and gave the property to his sons just before he died.] No record has been found of Captain John Buchanan's death date or the settlement of his estate.

Earlier in his life, on March 19, 1753, Capt. John Buchanan had bought 370 acres from Benjamin Borden on Walker's Creek, adjoining John's father, James Buchanan. He later sold that land to James McCown. Source: Augusta County, Virginia Deed Book 6 (page 347), Deed Book 17 (page 282), Will Book 3 (page 23).

NOTE: All research on Captain John Buchanan's property was gathered by Thomas Buchanan Ellis and his wife Karen Ellis.