

Part II. Hugh Macdonald and Descendants of Flora Macdonald in America



Moore's Creek Bridge in North Carolina

Quoting from my new book *Hero Imprints* (2021) about Revolutionary War Battles and its Soldiers took from pension records and available to members on 8 Genealogy Websites.

"The Scottish settlement in Moore County chose sides in the revolutionary war. Unfortunately, they chose their tormentor, England, instead of the new country. That made them suspect for service. On the day that young Hugh was found in a field near his home and persuaded to join the American army, his father, in fear of being taken into service, ran off into the woods to hide. He tells how, when he was fourteen years old his father took him along to the Battle of Moore's Creek, where he was taken prisoner along with the others. But, like most privates who were made

prisoners on that occasion, he and his father were set at liberty and sent home. His family political position clarified that they were Tories."

"Notwithstanding this scouring at Moore's Creek and the just condition of our fellow citizens, we remained unhurt, as still, Tories as ever. The expedition took place in the month of February 1778, from which we returned and began to repair our fences for a crop the ensuing summer. About the first of June, a report was circulated that a company of riders was coming into the settlement; and, as a guilty conscience needs no accuser, everyone thought they were after him. The report was that Colonel Alston had sent out four or five men to cite us on to muster at Henry Eagles on Bear Creek, upon which our poor deluded people took refuge in the swamps."

"On a certain day when we were plowing in the field, news came to my father that the Light Horse was in the settlement and requested that he would conceal himself. He sent to the house of his brother-in-law to give him notice and ordered me to take the horse out of the plow, turn him loose and follow him as best I could. I went to the horse; but never having plowed any in my life, I was trying how I could plow, when giving men on a horse appeared at the fence, one of whom, Daniel Buie, knew me and asked me what I was doing here. I answered that my father lived here; and he said, he wasn't aware of that."

"Come, he says, Come go with us to pilot us through the settlement; for we have a boy here with us who has come far enough. He is six miles from home and is tired enough"

" I told Mr. Buie that I dare not go, for if I did, my father would kill me. He then alighted from his horse and walked into the field, ungeared the horse, and took him outside the fence. He then put up the fence again, and leading me by the hand, put me on behind one of the company. We then went to Daniel Shaw's, thence to John Morrisons (the shoemaker); thence to old Hugh McSwan...here I was ordered to go home, but I refused and

went with them to the muster at Eagles. The next day, Colonel Philip Alston appeared at the muster, whose men told him that they had taken a boy to pilot them a little way through the settlement and that they could not get clear of him.

Then, the Colonel personally insisted on my going back to my father; but in the year 1771, just before the revolutionary war, a vessel containing the escaping clan of Macdonald positioned itself offshore from North Carolina petitioned the governor for land. (North Carolina State Papers)

They were given some 40,000 acres in Moore County. This is where the hotly pursued clan settled.

The Scottish settlement in Moore County chose sides in the revolutionary war. Unfortunately, they chose their tormentors, England, instead of the new country. That made them suspect for service. On the day that young Hugh was found in a field near his home and persuaded to join the American army, his father, in fear of being taken into service, ran off into the woods to hide. He tells how, when he was fourteen years old his father took him along to the Battle of Moore's Creek, where he was taken prisoner along with the others. But, like most privates who were made prisoners on that occasion, he and his father were set at liberty and sent home. His family's political position he clarified: they were Tories.

"Notwithstanding this scouring at Moore's Creek and the just condition of our fellow citizens, we remained unhurt, as still, Tories as ever. The expedition took place in the month of February 1778, from which we returned and began to repair our fences for a crop the ensuing summer.

About the first of June, a report was circulated that a company of riders was coming into the settlement; and, as a guilty conscience needs no accuser, everyone thought they were after him. The report was that Colonel Alston had sent out four or five men to cite us on to muster Athenry Eagles on Bear Creek, upon which our poor deluded people took

refuge in the swamps.

"On a certain day when we were plowing in the field, news came to my father that the Light Horse was in the settlement and requested that he would conceal himself. He sent to the house of his brother-in-law to give him notice and ordered me to take the horse out of the plow, turn him loose and follow him as best I could. I went to the horse but never having plowed any in my life, I was trying how I could plow, when giving men on a horse appeared at the fence, one of whom, Daniel Buie, knew me and asked me what I was doing here. I answered that my father lived here; and he said, he wasn't aware of that."

"Come, he says, Come go with us to pilot us through the settlement; for we have a boy here with us who has come far enough. He is six miles from home and is tired enough"

" I told Mr. Buie that I dare not go, for if I did, my father would kill me. He then alighted from his horse and walked into the field, ungeared the horse, and took him outside the fence. He then put up the fence again, and leading me by the hand, put me on behind one of the company. We then went to Daniel Shaw's, thence to John Morrisons (the shoemaker); thence to old Hugh McSwan...here I was ordered to go home, but I refused and went with them to the muster at Eagles. The next day, Colonel Philip Alston appeared at the muster, whose men told him that they had taken a boy to pilot them a little way through the settlement and that they could not get clear of him.

Then, the Colonel personally insisted on my going back to my father; but I told them I would not; for he had told the consequence of my going with them before they took me...."

"One evening the brigade, being on parade, I felt a great desire for home and thought I saw everything in my father's house before my eyes. I got out of my tent and went away some distance to a fresh-running branch. The

water, from falling over a large poplar root, had made a deep hole blow, and getting into the hold I laid my head on the root, which I believe was the sweetest bed I ever laid. The water was so cool to my parched body that I lay there until 10 o'clock the next day before they found me, George Dudley, Sgt. Of our company, having crossed within two feet of my head without seeing me. William Carrol, who was in company with Dudley, discovered me and exclaimed: By G-d, here he is, burned to be an otter. He is under the water! Dudley, having passed me, turned back, took me out of the water, and carried me to camp. When the doctor came to see me, he said that the water had cooled my fever and that I had recovered, though he had given me out before."

After the war, the Scots of Moore County, North Carolina, now considered Loyalist traitors, were sent back to Scotland. There existed very strong feelings against the Scottish clans. The Provincial Congress refused to grant the request for land grants of Edmund MacQueen in N. C., one of the emigrants with the MacDonalds, who came in 1771.

But Hugh was an American soldier, entitled to land grants for his service, which he received in the State of Georgia. Because of his family, he was refused land grants in North Carolina.

Sources: March 22, 1785, Hugh McDonald received a bounty grant for his service during the war, being listed by Knight's Roster of the Revolution. He served on the Georgia Line, for which he received land grants in Franklin (1786), Wilkes (1785), two in Wilkes (1786), Effingham Co. (1787), two in Franklin (1787), five in Wilkes (1788), six in Franklin (1788), Franklin (1788, Franklin (1794) and (179&), Elbert (1811) and three in Elbert (1801).

A Certificate of Elijah Clarke, Lt. Colonel of the American Revolution, issued Warranted No. 639 to Hugh McDonald on 25 January 1785, certifying him to be a soldier of the Georgia Line. Hugh Macdonald settled in Elbert County, Georgia.

Men of Mark, Vol. XI by William J. Northen; North Carolina State Papers.

Roster of North Carolina Revolutionary War Soldiers; Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. 8, page 620-622; Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. II, page 828-837; Knights Roster of the Revolution.

Links on 8 Genealogy Websites

<a
href="[https://georgiapioneers.com/restricted/NC/genealogies/mcdonald.h
tml](https://georgiapioneers.com/restricted/NC/genealogies/mcdonald.html)">Macdonald Genealogy of Sleat
