

moving in a broader, but shallower, channel. Now it must be running over high shoals.

Community schools were not neglected. Moses Teague, a soldier under "Old Hickory" at the Horse Shoe Bend and New Orleans, where "a Tennessee rifleman was the superior of a Wellington invincible", pointed out the site of an old cabin schoolhouse at the foot of Job's Mountain, where, in his boyhood days, he received instruction in English.

AFTER PIONEER DAYS

The crossing of Governor Tryon's self constituted line by the refugees, operated to them in a great measure as an immunity from both political and military excitement, and even after the Declaration at Philadelphia and war conditions prevailed and while Rowan, Mecklenburgh, Tryon and even other portions of Burke County were seething cauldrons of military turmoil, the "Little River Settlements" were enjoying a quiet rest that was especially grateful to them after their harrowing experiences in Orange and Chatham. As a consequence, but few men of these settlements enrolled in the Continental Army and none in the British Army. Those who did enroll in the Continental Army will be recorded as we reach their location.

The tenure of lands of the first settlers of Alexander County were altogether "axe entries"--that is, boundaries that each settler desired to make his claim were just marked around with axe marks until peace conditions prevailed and the regular legal acquirement could be obtained. There is but one grant of land in Alexander prior to 1780 and that is a proprietary grant dated 1754.

Following war times, the old English Common Law system almost automatically was the community measure of right and wrong and was supplemented by state legislation providing for its execution and providing more laws until it has reached the point "of making many laws there is no end". The success of the Revolutionary War promoted a military spirit all over the whole country. All the states enacted laws providing for military training of their citizens. The training days in North Carolina were called "Musters", and were either regimental or company musters. The company musters were quarterly--once every three months and the regimental, once every year. Alexander County, after its organization was divided into eight military districts, with designated "Muster Grounds" and called in the records "Captains' Companies". All other countries were similiary organized by state laws providing for the same. The training on muster days would be worse than useless now and was really worth nothing then; but the statesmen of the early days of the republic thought it was. With the close of the Civil War "Musters" passed away forever.

Another institution prior to the State Constitution of 1868 was the old English tribunal called "Courts of Pleas and Quarter Sessions", or "County Courts". The court was composed of a number (generally five) of the county justices. Its jurisdiction extended to both criminal and civil proceedings and in addition had the management of all county affairs.

The records of all of Alexander County's military affairs are lost except that of the soldiers of the Civil War. The records of the Court of Pleas and