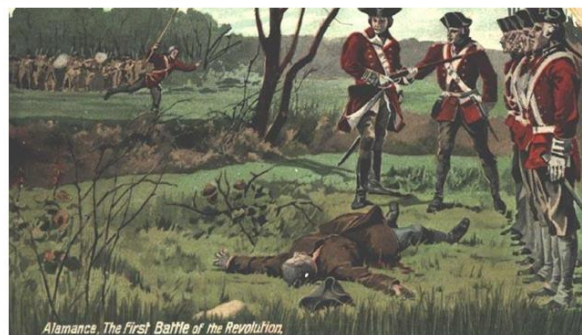


The Regulators and Battle Of Alamance



Allred History Zoom Handout

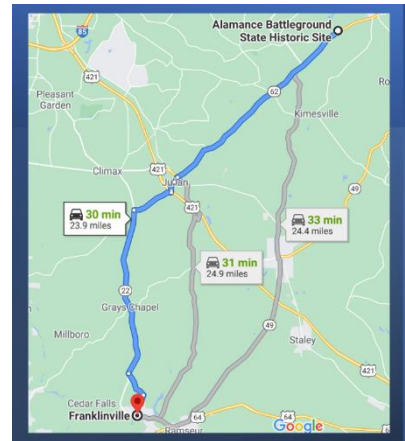
August 17, 2021

Linda Allred Cooper

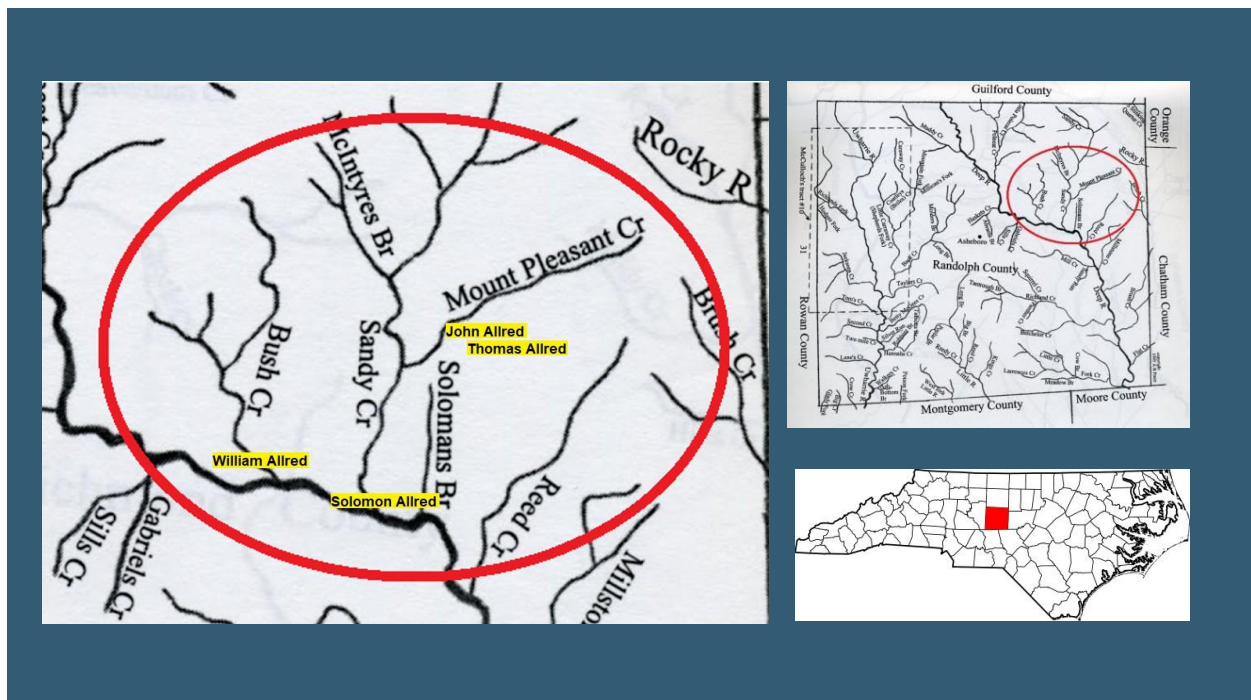
www.MyAllredFamily.com

Why an Allred History Zoom about the Regulators and the Battle of Alamance?

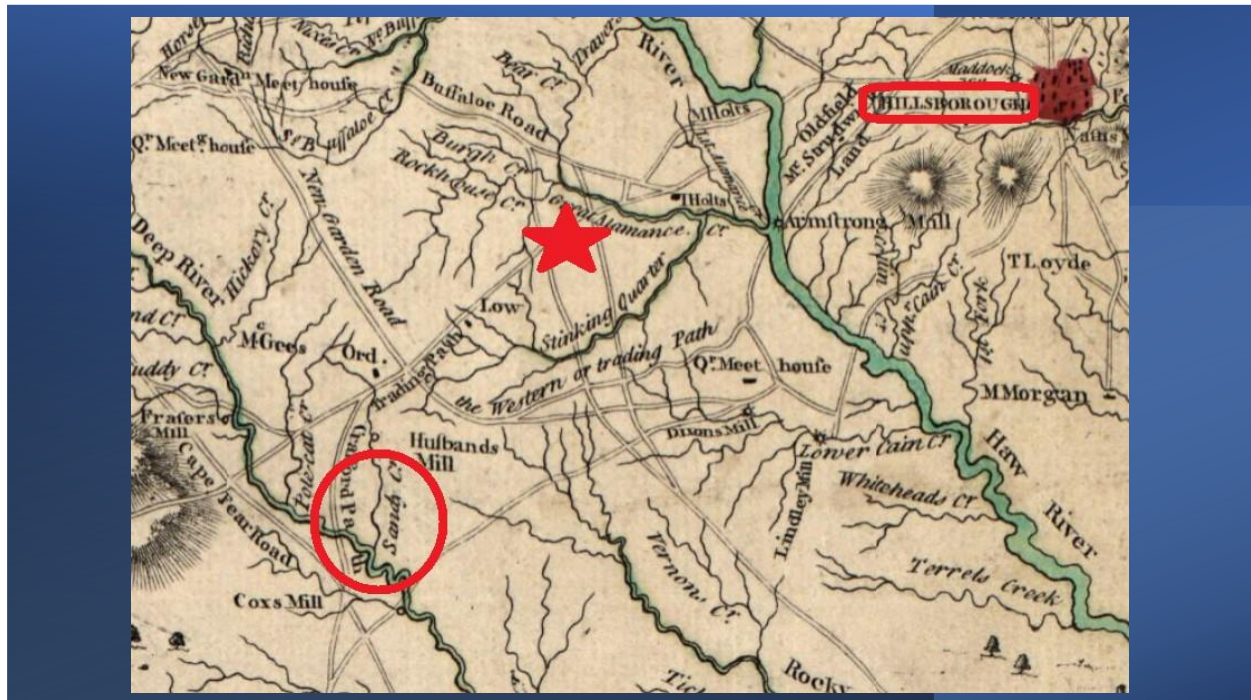
1. Our Allred ancestors were living in North Carolina during the Regulator Movement 1761-1771
2. Some of our Allred ancestors were neighbors and friends with Leaders of the Regulator Movement including Herman Husband and Rednap Howell.
3. Our Allred ancestors lived about 23 miles from Alamance Battleground
4. Two of our Allred ancestors signed Regulator Petitions
5. Our Allred ancestors were Regulators!
6. Regulators fought at The Battle of Alamance on May 16, 1771 – the FIRST Battle between American Colonists and the Royal Crown on American Soil!



The first Allred North Carolina Land Grant, dated 1752, describes the tract of land being on the Mouth of Sandy Creek of Deep River. Subsequent grants and deeds place our ancestors' land on the Mouth of Bush Creek of Deep River and Mouth of Mt. Pleasant Creek of Sandy Creek of Deep River allowing us to pinpoint exactly where the original Allred land was located. The maps below show where that land is located in today's Randolph County, North Carolina.



During the time of the Regulator Movement and Battle of Alamance 1761-1771, the land our Allred ancestors lived on was part of Orange County. (Randolph County was created in 1779.)¹ Orange County's Courthouse was in Hillsborough and the Colonial Capital, home of the Royal Governor of North Carolina, was in New Bern. The map below² was published in 1770. The red circle shows the area where our Allred ancestors lived. Hillsborough, the Seat of Orange County is denoted by the red square. The red star shows where The Battle of Alamance took place on May 16, 1771.



Note Husband's Mill was located very near, almost bordering Allred land. Quaker and Regulator Leader Herman Husband owned quite a bit of property in Orange County, but his home was located near the Grist Mill that he owned and operated. Another Regulator Leader, Rednap Howell, lived near the mouth of Sandy Creek of Deep River where Solomon Allred's land was located.

The Regulator Movement 1761-1771

Our Allred ancestors were among the very first white settlers to live in central North Carolina, arriving around 1745.³ By 1760 most of the land was claimed and freedom loving farmers were busy raising

¹ A great interactive map slide show is online at <http://www.usgennet.org/usa/nc/state2/amap/nccf.html> Play around with the dates and you will see how and when counties were formed, allowing you to better understand how our Allred ancestors stayed in one place as counties formed around them. This will help explain why our ancestor's land grants are found in several different counties including Anson/Bladen, Orange and Randolph.

² A Compleat Map Of North Carolina From An Actual Survey by John Collet, J. Bayly and Samuel Hooper, Created/Published in London, UK by Samuel Hooper 1770 online at <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3900.ar150000/?r=0.321,0.167,0.18,0.085,0>

³ Several Research Reports detailing when our Allred ancestors moved to North Carolina are available online at www.MyAllredFamily.com and click on Research Reports Videos and Tours



their families. However, in the early 1760's, oppressive taxation and a corrupt local government began to create hardship. Our honest, hardworking ancestors didn't mind paying their fair share of taxes, but dishonest Sheriffs and Tax Collectors began showing up unannounced demanding immediate payment. Most farmers didn't have coin or paper money on hand, they were used to dealing in barter/trade, so had to scramble to find a banker, family member or neighbor they could borrow money from to pay the unexpected taxes. If the farmer was unable to immediately pay, livestock and

farm equipment would be confiscated. There are recorded cases of farmers who asked for a few hours so they could travel to a neighbor or banker to get the money due only to return home to find his plowing horses or family's milk cows/livestock or farm equipment had been taken. The Sheriff would then auction off the taken goods/animals and pocket the money, returning in a few weeks or months to "collect taxes" again.



Royal Governor William Tryon⁴ arrived in North Carolina in 1764 with his wife, young daughter, and ambitions of living a rich and lavish lifestyle. Tryon had no governing experience, having spent his earlier years serving in several military positions. He achieved his appointment to Royal Governor through family connections, common among aristocratic families. He immediately petitioned for tax-payer money to build his new home and seat of power which he called Tryon Palace⁵. Taxes were raised and the Sheriff and Tax Collectors began coming



around to collect taxes and fees more and more often, pocketing most of it for themselves.



More and more instances of the Sheriff coming to collect more taxes began being reported to the Court in Hillsborough. However, the very corrupt Edmund Fanning⁶ ruled Orange County's Court system. He served as Trustee and Commissioner of Hillsborough in 1760 – 1771 and was appointed Prosecutor For the Crown in 1761. In 1763 he was also appointed Public Register (Register of Deeds) of Orange County. In 1765 he was appointed Judge of the Superior Court and given a commission (rank Colonel) of the Orange County Militia.⁷ In other words, he was the final say, the Ruler of

⁴ Photo found online on several websites, no original origin credited. I copied this one from Wikipedia.

⁵ Tryon Palace today is open to the public, located in New Bern, North Carolina. <https://www.tryonpalace.org/>

⁶ Portrait of Edmund Fanning from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Fanning_\(colonial_administrator\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Fanning_(colonial_administrator))

⁷ Edmund Fanning (Colonial Administrator) on Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Fanning_\(colonial_administrator\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Fanning_(colonial_administrator))

Orange County and the Sheriffs answered to him. When he arrived in Hillsborough (about 1760), he basically had just the clothes on his back. By 1768, he had acquired over 1100 acres of land just south and east of Hillsborough, 29 lots in town, and over 10,000 acres of land in Orange, Anson and Rowan Counties. One of the Regulator Leaders, Rednap Howell (neighbor of Solomon Allred)⁸, was a poet and song writer who penned several songs to describe what was happening including this one about Edmund Fanning⁹:

When Fanning first to Orange came
He looked both pale and wan,
An old patched coat upon his back,
An old mare he rode on.
Both man and mare wa'n't worth five pounds,
As I've been often told,
But by his civil robberies
He's laced his coat with gold



Edmund Fanning was not the sole corruption in Orange County's government. Thomas Hart was Sheriff of Orange County and a member of the Colonial Assembly. Francis Nash was Orange County's Clerk of Court, Justice of the Peace, Captain of the Militia and also served in the Colonial Assembly. These 3 men controlled everything in Orange County. They could decide if you committed a crime, when you would be arrested, and they hand-picked their friends as Jurors so you were guilty and your punishment decided before you ever entered the Court House.

Keep in mind everyone living in Colonial America was a British Citizen ruled by the King of England. The King had appointed William Tryon to be Royal Governor. Tryon appointed Fanning to basically rule Orange County. Fanning appointed or arranged to appoint Hart and Nash to their posts. To criticize Fanning or Tryon was the same as criticizing the King who was anointed by God to be His Ruler on Earth. Criticism was a very serious offense!!!

Thus, the farmers and residents of central North Carolina, including our Allred ancestors, were in a horrible situation. Sheriffs and Tax Collectors came around, sometimes without warning, 2 or more times per year to collect more than the legal tax and there was no one to complain to. Of course, the Sheriff is not going to tolerate complaints about his own actions. Orange County's Court, ruled by corrupt Edmund Fanning and his cohorts Francis Nash and Thomas Hart, was not going to offer any relief for the citizens. The Royal Governor William Tryon was busy building his Tryon Palace and enjoying dreams of living a rich, aristocratic lifestyle in New Bern.

Examples of Abuse by Sheriffs Collecting Taxes

⁸ Dr. Ted Scott Henson of Burlington, a descendant of three Regulators, portrays Rednap Howell in many re-enactments, period encampments and presentations about the Regulators and Battle of Alamance. Born in Franklinville, NC, Dr. Ted Scott Henson now lives in Burlington and volunteers at Alamance Battleground Visitor's Center. You will find a link to a video of one of Dr. Ted Scott Henson's portrayals of Rednap Howell online at <https://chathamhistory.org/pdfs/RednapHowellPoetoftheRegulation.pdf> Dr. Henson gave permission for his photos to be used in this presentation.

⁹ Songs of the Regulators online at NCPedia <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/songs-regulators>

- 1: *In the County of Orange...when the sheriff was going over the county distraining and selling property of every man who did not instantly pay his taxes, or the amount demanded, accompanied by his deputies, and perhaps others, well armed and attending him as a life guard, he came to the house of a poor man who was not at home; but as if determined not to be wholly disappointed in his object and not finding anything else, or enough of anything else to satisfy his demands, he took off the wife's dress, which she had on at the time and which she had made with her own hands, sold it under the hammer for her husband's tax and then giving her a slap with his hand, told her to go and make another."¹⁰*



2.



May ye 21st 1768. This Day personally appeared before me Wm. Thompson one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace the above Deponent and made oath that the above Deposition was just & true The Deposition of Job Self of Orange County and Province of North Carolina, Deposeth and saith that John Wood sub Sheriff, came in to the range of his creatures, and Ketcht his horse in the woods, in the year 1766, and carried him off, under a pretence it was for a debt of one pound eighteen shillings, which he the deponent was indebted to one Mills a merchant at Roanoke, some time after, another Sheriff came, and took an ox, for the same debt, and left it at Zacaria Martins, for all which he cannot receive any Acct or satisfaction.¹¹

Job Self, was still unable to pay the taxes when Orange County Sub Sheriff (Deputy) John Wood returned to collect even more taxes. This time one of our ancestors, William Allred, tried to intervene by agreeing to hold the items until the money could be raised.

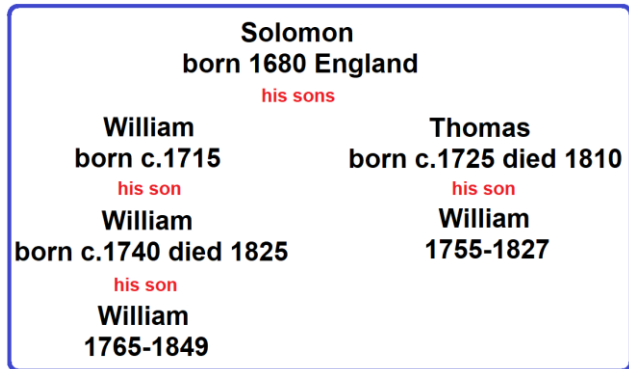
3. *The Deposition of Parish Gardner of Orange County and Province of North Carolina Deposeth and saith He was security for Job Self to one Mills, merchant at Roanoke, for the sum of one pound eighteen shillings Virginia Currency, for which John Wood Sub Sheriff came in the year 1766, and took one feather Bedd, Bolster & Sheets with one Iron Box and a Gunn all to the amount of Five Pounds Prock which he carried to Wm Aldreads, and left them ten or eleven months, in which time the Deponent sent the money by William Aldered several times, to the said Sheriff but he refused to receive it, and likewise refused delivering my goods, but after a clandestant manner took them up to town, for which the Deponent can receive no Account or satisfaction what he has done with them.¹²*

¹⁰ *Some Neglected History of North Carolina, Being an Account of the Revolution* by William Edward Fitch, page 102

¹¹ Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Volume 7, Page 775

¹² Ibid

Although there were 4 males named William Allred living in Orange County at this time, the man listed in the court record was William Allred, son of Solomon Allred born 1680 England, identified by a process of elimination:



William, son of Solomon, was born about 1715. He owned land in Prince George's County, Maryland in the 1740's, then moved to North Carolina, first appearing in land records in 1762.

His son William (born c1740 – died 1825) was in his early-mid 20's during the Regulator Movement. Although old enough to have been involved, it is doubtful he had the money or influence to try to intervene between a Sheriff

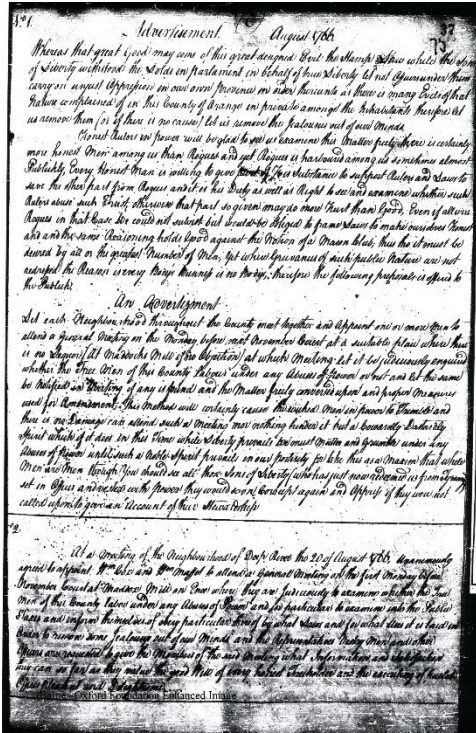
and tax-payer. His father is the more likely candidate.

His son William (1765-1849) and grandson of the elder William (c1715-c1771) was just a baby during these turbulent years.

William (1755-1827) son of Thomas Allred (c1725-1810) was a small child, too young to be involved.

As more Orange County farmers either endured the tax abuse themselves or heard about it from neighbors and friends, they became increasingly angry. In 1765, they came together to begin formally fighting this abuse. They called themselves the Regulators because they wanted to create and enforce Regulations on the local (Orange County) government so they would have the right to live in peace and safety as English citizens. The main platform the Regulators stood for were:

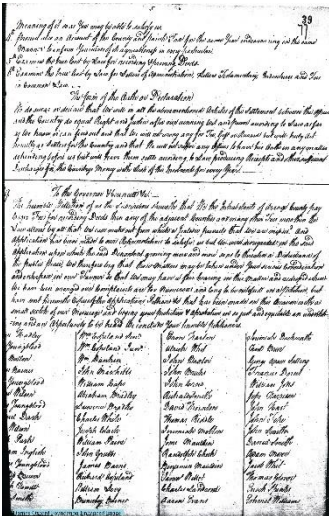
1. No man should hold more than one elected or appointed government office at a time.
2. All fees and taxes should be listed and publicized so extortion and over-taxing abuse could not happen.
3. Local officials would no longer have the right to regulate or restrict commercial activity.



4. Extortion would be illegal.

The Regulators began their fight against extortion and tax abuse by advertising their meetings and gathering information to document how much abuse there really was.

At a meeting of the Neighborhood of Deep River the 20th August 1766 unanimously agreed to appoint Wm Cox and Wm Masset to attend a general meeting on the first Monday before November Court at Maddox Mill on Enoe where they are judiciously to examine whether the true men of the county labour under any abuses of power and in particular to examine into the Public Taxes and inform themselves of every particular thereof by what Laws & for what uses it is laid in order to remove some jealousys out of our minds and the representatives vestrymen and other officers are requested to give the members of said meeting what Information and satisfaction they can so far as they value the good will of every honest Freeholder and the executing of public offices pleasant and delightsome.¹³



They began sending Petitions to Governor Tryon about the abuse. Leader Herman Husband, a Quaker, was convinced, or at least hoped, the Governor would listen to their grievances and correct the injustice.

REGULATORS' ADVERTISEMENT No. 9.

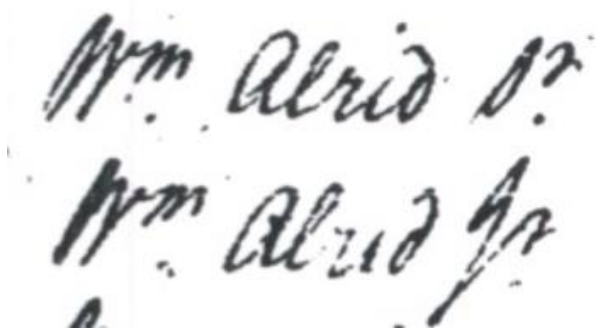
To the Governor & Council &c.

The humble Petition of us the Subscribers sheweth that We the Inhabitants of Orange County pay larger Fees for recording Deeds than any of the adjacent Counties and many other Fees more than the Law allows by all that We can make out from which a jealousy prevails that we are misused and application has been made to our representatives to satisfy us But we were disregarded in the said application upon which the said discontent growing more and more so as to threaten a disturbance of the public peace, we therefore beg that those matters may be taken under your

serious consideration and interpose in our Favour so that we may have a fair hearing in this matter and [be] redressed where we have been wronged Our complaints are too numerous and long to be notified in a Petition, but have sent herewith copies of the Applications Petitions &c that has been made on this Occasion with a small sketch of our Misusage and begging your

¹³ Regulator Advertisement #2, August 1766, Colonial and State Records, Vol 7, Page 132

protection and aprobaton in so just and equitable an undertaking and an opportunity to be heard We conclude your humble Petitioners.¹⁴

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive ink. The top signature reads "Wm Allred Sr." and the bottom signature reads "Wm Allred Jr." Both signatures are written in a fluid, historical style.

474 Regulators signed Petition #9 including William Allred and his son William Allred Jr. Tryon read the Petition quickly, then tore it into pieces and threw it down as he walked away. Thankfully someone gathered up the pieces and they are now preserved in the North Carolina State Archives.

At least 11 Petitions were hand delivered to the Court or to Governor Tryon who just ignored them. When the Governor did question if the charges in the Petitions were true, his advisors and Edmund Fanning denied everything. As time passed, more extortion and abuse took place, more Petitions were written and ignored and tempers began to flare. By 1768, some Regulators began refusing to pay any more taxes and still others were advocating violence. Governor Tryon responded by, on May 8, 1768, issuing an arrest warrant for Regulator Leader Herman Husband who was being charged with Treason.¹⁵ Regulators continued to refuse to pay taxes and some threatened the lives of anyone who tried to collect those taxes. Governor Tryon issued more orders for the Regulators to desist and disband. By 1770 the Regulators were disrupting court proceedings and committing acts of violence to try to get their point across – the extortion and abuse of Orange County’s citizens had to come to a halt!!

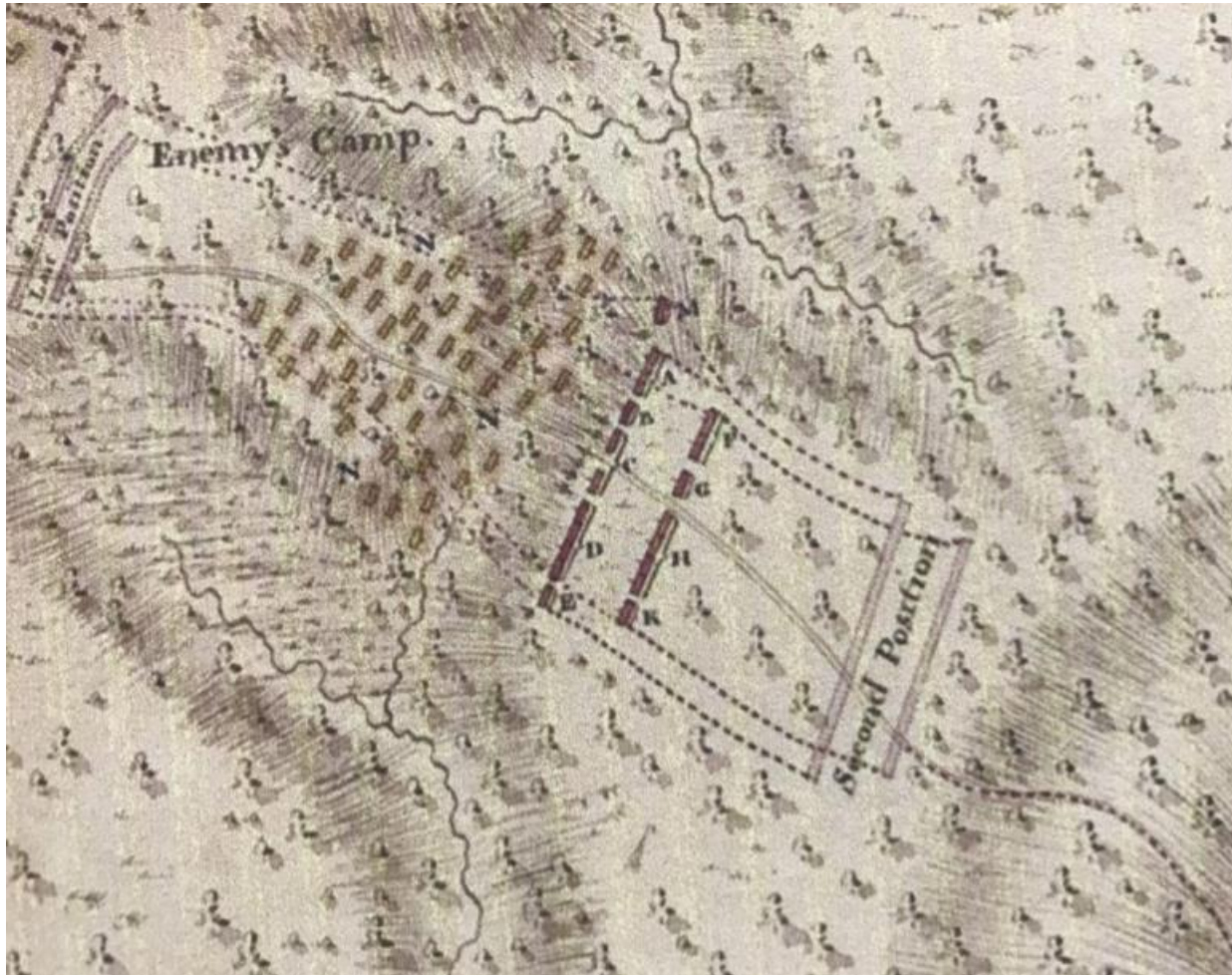
Violence soon erupted. On September 22, 1770, Regulators assembled in Hillsborough, in a way that North Carolinians had historically practiced, to disrupt the court and bring attention to political demands. All was peaceful until March 25, a Monday, when Regulators, armed with clubs and whips, packed the courthouse and asked to be jury members. They debated for approximately thirty minutes, before the court continued without regarding their requests. Outside the courtroom, frustrated Regulators attacked a lawyer named Williams (first name unknown) and then reentered the courthouse, seized Fanning, and beat him, too. Both men eventually escaped, but were soon found. Under duress, both made agreements with Regulators so that they might go home. Under duress, too, Judge Henderson continued holding court and promised to continue doing so the next day. That night, however, he fled town. The judge’s escape prompted frustrated Regulators to target Fanning. They ran him out of town, plundered his home, marched with his effigy through Hillsborough, destroyed a church bell donated by him, and ended their violence by breaking merchants’ house windows.¹⁶

¹⁴ Regulator Advertisement #9, May 1768, Colonial and State Records Vol 7, Page 289
<http://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr07-0289> Copy of original document online at Barnes Oxford Research Foundation <https://barnesoxford.org/regulator-advertisement-no-9-transcription/>

¹⁵ Colonial and State Records, Vol 7, Page 742 online at <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr07-0294#p7-742>

¹⁶ Hillsborough Riot (1770) by Dr. Troy L. Kicklely online at North Carolina History Project <https://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/hillsborough-riot-1770/>

Governor Tryon finally responded by calling up his militia. If the Regulators would not disperse quietly and return to their homes peacefully, then he would send his militia to control them by force. This further outraged the Regulators and Tryon began marching his militia towards Hillsborough and then Orange County. The Regulators responded by marching toward Tryon's militia. On May 16, 1771 the two sides met near Great Alamance Creek. Tryon's militia, numbered about 1000 men, lined up on the east side, the Regulators, numbered about 2000 men, lined up about 300 feet to the west.¹⁷



Tryon's militia were well armed, organized and were trained for battle. Among their ammunition was 8 cannons. The Regulators had no true leaders for the upcoming battle.¹⁸ They were angry farmers, tired of being abused, then ignored by government officials. The Regulators were armed with hunting rifles, shotguns and some also carried pitchforks and knives.

¹⁷ Drawing of Alamance Battleground used with permission of Lisa Cox of Alamance Battleground Park and Facebook Group Footprint of our Ancestors: Battle of Alamance 1771
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050330255349804>

¹⁸ North Carolina had a Colonial Militia but it was not as organized or well trained as Tryon's army. To learn more, go to <https://www.ncpedia.org/militias-colonial>

Tryon issued a Proclamation that all Regulators who laid down his arms and peacefully walked away would be pardoned. Those who remained would be fired upon.

The Governor then sent Capt. Malcolm, one of the Aides-de-Camp, and the Sheriff of Orange, with his Letter, requiring the Rebels to lay down their Arms, surrender up their Outlawed Ringleaders, About half past ten Capt. Malcolm and the Sheriff returned with the Information that the Sheriff had read the Letter four several times to different Divisions of the Rebels who rejected the Terms offer'd with disdain, said they wanted no time to consider of them and with rebellious clamor called out for battle.¹⁹

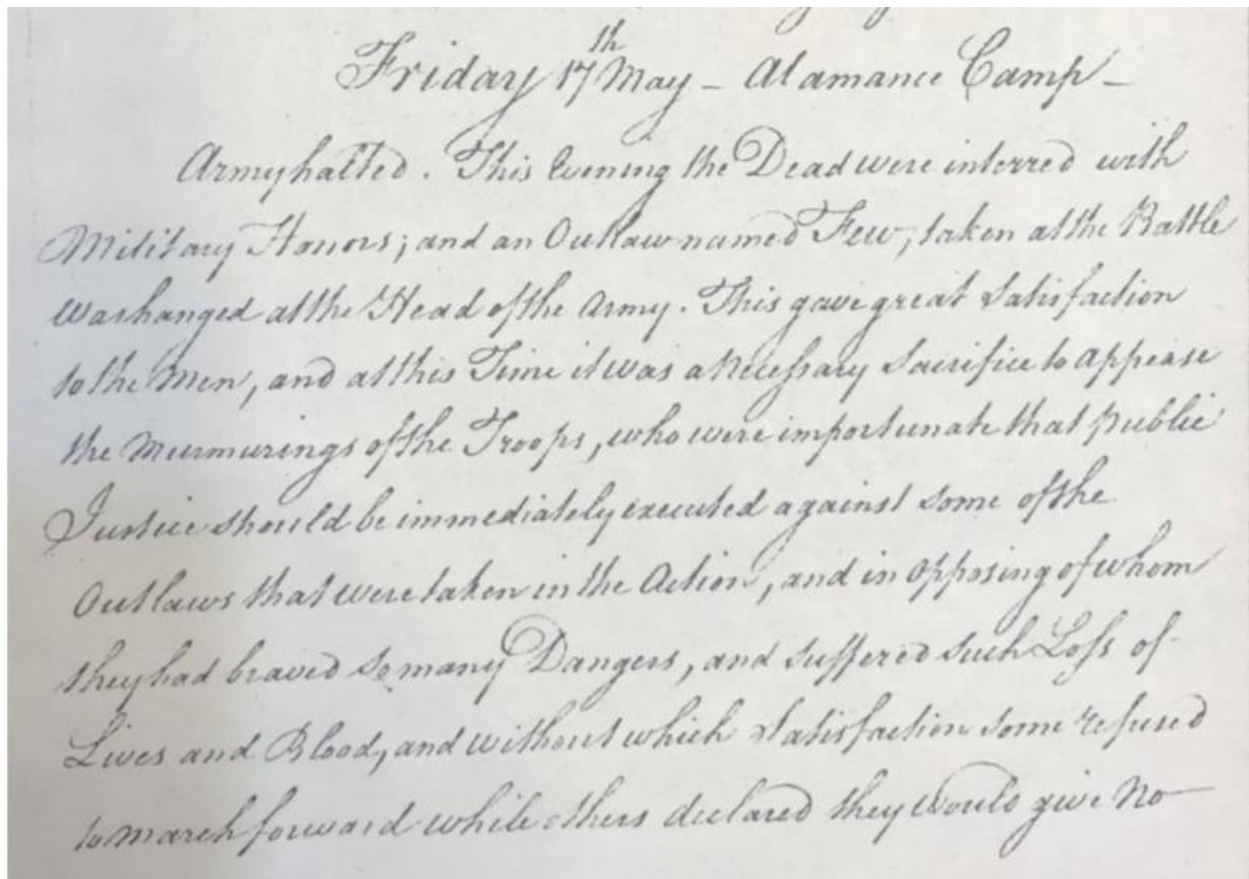


As tensions rose and the Regulators could see Tryon's Army and Militia loading the cannons and preparing to fire, some of the Regulators began shouting "Fire And Be Damned". When Tryon realized all attempts of avoiding a battle were futile, he ordered his troops to open fire but the militia hesitated. After all, they were not career soldiers. Some of them lived in Orange County, were neighbors and friends of the Regulators and may have sympathized with them. There are reports of a father was on one side and a son on the other. Brothers were divided, one Militia, one Regulator. No one wanted War, no one wanted to shoot at a family member, friend or neighbor. Tryon ordered them to fire again and still they hesitated. Finally, Tryon yelled "Fire On Them Or Fire On Me!" The militia opened fire on the Regulators. The first volley of cannon and gun fire killed many Regulators and the rest scattered into the surrounding woods, some taking cover and returning fire; some running for their lives.

¹⁹ Lisa Cox of Alamance Battleground Park and Facebook Group Footprint of our Ancestors: Battle of Alamance 1771 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050330255349804>

The action was hot on both sides tho' the Rebels soon took to the Trees, from whence they kept up a brisk fire for near two hours, at the expiration of which time their fire slackened considerably. The Artillery was ordered to cease and the Army to advance in the best order the Circumstances would admit of. The left wing of the first line having turned upon the second line of the said wing, threw both into much disorder, tho' by the spirited behaviour of the Officers they were again brought into the Field and moved forward with the right wing. This soon drove the Enemy from the Trees and the whole Rebel Army fled in great confusion leaving behind them near 20 prisoners taken in the Field, seventy Horses with saddles, provisions and a small quantity of Ammunition.²⁰

Tryon's army chased the Regulators, killing and wounding as many as possible. One report says they found 3 Regulators hiding in a house. The Regulators were stripped and tied to trees where they were whipped.²¹ Several were taken prisoner and the next morning prisoner James Few was hanged as an example of what would happen to the rest of the Regulators.²²

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript snippet on aged paper. The text is written in a cursive script and describes the aftermath of the Battle of Alamance. It mentions that the army halted, the dead were interred with military honors, and an outlaw named Few was hanged at the head of the army. The text also discusses the morale of the troops and the necessity of executing some of the outlaws to appease the army's demands.

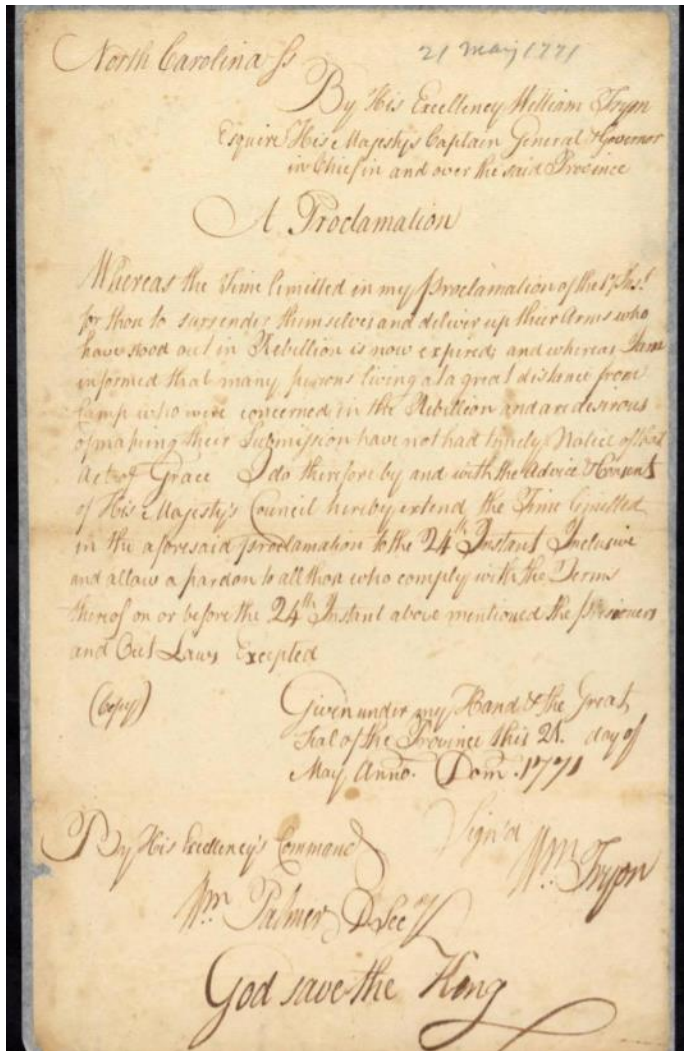
Friday 17th May - Alamance Camp -
Army halted. This evening the Dead were interred with
Military Honours; and an Outlaw named Few, taken at the Battle
was hanged at the Head of the Army. This gave great Satisfaction
to the Men, and at this Time it was a necessary Sacrifice to appease
the Murmurings of the Troops, who were importunate that Public
Justice should be immediately executed against some of the
Outlaws that were taken in the Action, and in opposing of whom
they had braved so many Dangers, and suffered such Loss of
Lives and Blood, and without which Satisfaction some refused
to march forward while others declared they would give no

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Journal of the Exhibition; Lisa Cox of Alamance Battleground Park and Facebook Group Footprint of our Ancestors: Battle of Alamance 1771 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1050330255349804>

²² Ibid

Many of the Regulator leaders, including Herman Husband, left the area in fear of their lives. The army continued west and exercised a “Scorched Earth” policy as they searched for Regulators. Family stories tell us some houses of accused Regulators were burned to the ground, crops destroyed, livestock killed, women and children terrorized. On May 21, 1771, Governor Tryon decided enough was enough – he couldn’t catch or kill all of the Regulators and it was a much better policy to issue a Pardon if they would swear an Oath Of Allegiance to the King and promise to never again take up arms against the Crown.²³



By His excellency William Tryon
Esquire His Majesty’s Captain General &
Governor in Chief in and over the said
Province
A Proclamation
Whereas the time permitted in my
Proclamation of the 17st last for them to
surrender themselves and deliver up their
arms who have stood out in Rebellion is now
expired; and whereas I am informed that
many personas living at a great distance
from camp who were concerned in the
Rebellion and are desirous of making their
submission have not had timely notice of
that Act Of Grace, I do therefore by and with
the advice & consent of His Majesty’s
Council hereby extend the Time Limited in
the aforesaid proclamation to the 24 Instand
Inclusive and allow a pardon to all those
who comply with the Term thereof on or
before the 24th Instant above mentioned the
Prisoners and Outlaws Excepted.
Given under my Hand & the Great
Seal of the Province this 21 day of
May Anno Domini 1771
William Tryon
God Save The King

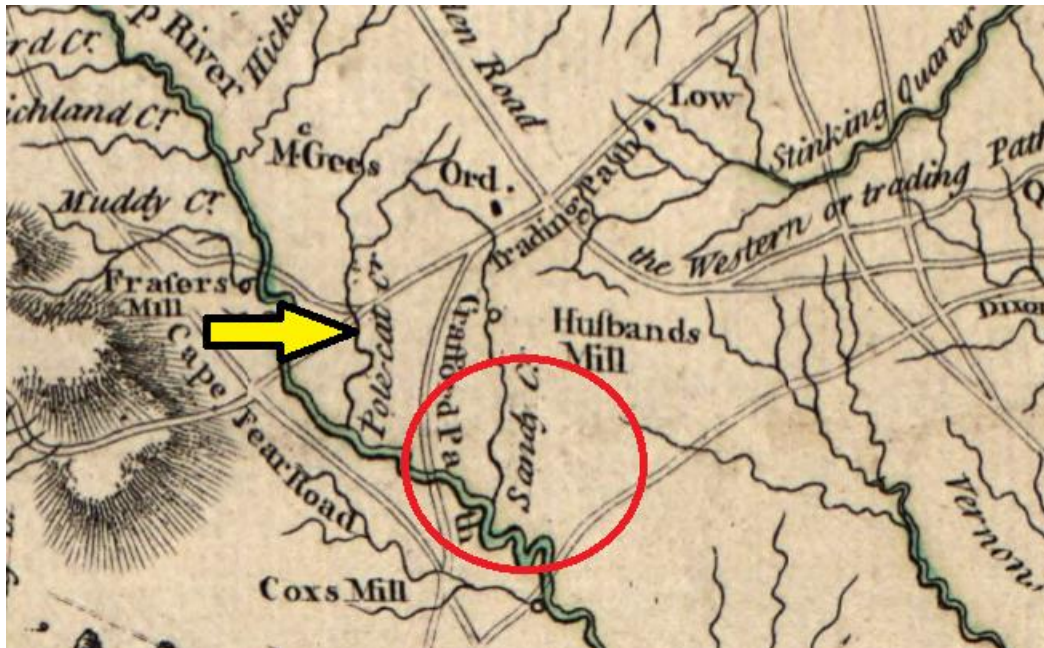
The army continued their march through Orange County as they searched for Regulators.

Deep River Camp - Wednesday the 29th of May "Marched four Miles and crossed Poll Cat Creek, a deep and ugly Ford. Felled a large tree a Cross the Creek and marched the Troops over in Indian File. From the obstructions of this Creek they were five Hours in getting all over. Marched two Miles beyond the Creek and encamped on the North East Banks of Deep River. Left the Rangers, Wake, and Orange Detachments, at Poll Cat Creek." -Journal of the Expedition Against the

²³ Ibid

Insurgents Image-Portion of the 1770 Collet map indicates the area where the militia crossed Polecat Creek. (West of Husband's Mill.)²⁴

The arrow on the 1770 Collet Map below points to Polecat Creek, close to Herman Husband's Mill/Home and the circled area where the Allreds lived. As you can imagine, our Allreds suffered from Tryon's Scorched Earth policy as the army searched for the Regulators.



As you saw above, Tryon issued an offer of Pardon for everyone who swore an Oath of Allegiance. The exception to this offer was the Prisoners and Outlaws his troops had already arrested. These prisoners were marched, in chains, to Salisbury, then Bethabara, then to Hillsborough where 12 of them were put on trial. On June 19, 1771, 6 Regulators were hanged. 6400 men, most Regulators, swore the Oath of Allegiance. I say "most were Regulators" because, no doubt, some were innocent bystanders who didn't want to be involved with the Regulator Movement and simply lived in Orange County; but it was safer/easier to simply take the Oath than try to explain this to unsympathetic soldiers.

²⁴ Ibid



By August things had calmed some although several prisoners were still jailed in Hillsborough awaiting trial and possible hanging. Some former Regulators Petitioned the Governor for clemency for these prisoners including one Petition, written August 25, 1771, signed by John Allred.²⁵

Orange and Guilford Countys North Carolina
August 25th 1771

To all persons whom this may Concern Know ye, that whereas Thomas Welborn has lived in the neighborhood of Sandy Creek near hand about fifteen years in the Countys and province aforesaid it tis requested of his friends and Acquaintance, A Letter of his Recommendation, which we the subscribers hereof, Do hereby Certify, the above sd Thomas Welborn to be, A man of Justice and Honest Integrity in his Dealing and Conversation neither Known, nor Suspected to be Guilty of Fraudulent Practices, But Contrary wise, Upright in his Generation, and A true Loyal Tenant to his Majesty, Excepting the Late Insurrection and Rebellion, as did arise in the Countys aforesaid, & Given Under our hands the Day and Year first above written .

**Signed by 19 men
Including
John Allred**

Yes, our Allred ancestors were Regulators. Some were active participants:

²⁵ Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, Vol 9, Pages 25-26 online at <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/page/p9-25>

William Allred born c1715, as you saw earlier in this report, appeared in court trying to intervene and help a friend who was over taxed. He and his son, **William (born c1740 – died 1825)** signed Regulator Petition #9.²⁶

John Allred (born c1725 – died 1792) signed one of the petitions for the release of his neighbor Thomas Wellborn on August 25, 1771.²⁷

Thomas Allred (born c 1725 – died 1810) lived with his nephew John Allred and later bought land from John so remained his neighbor.²⁸ Both lived near Herman Husband.

The only Allred I cannot be sure of was Solomon (died 1782). The elder Solomon (born 1680 England) disappears from records after 1760 and probably died, but his son, also named Solomon, does not appear in any records during the 1761-1771 Regulator Movement time period. Although I tend to think he must have been a Regulator and was one of the thousands of Orange County residents who were over-taxed and abused by the Sheriff and tax collectors, I can find no direct or circumstantial evidence of his involvement.

Collateral ancestors who were documented Regulators (signed Petitions, appeared in Court Depositions, etc.):

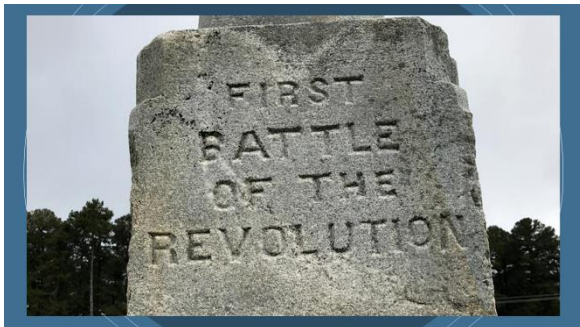
Nathan Aldridge - (2 of his daughters, Mary & Margaret, married Solomon and Thomas Allred in Tennessee with many descendants living in Blount County, Alabama today

Jeremiah York – I don't know if this was the same man who appeared in Chester County, PA tax lists or his son. Anne, sister of the elder Jeremiah York, married Solomon Allred (born 1680 England) and was the mother of his children, thus the maternal progenitor of most American Allreds

John York – one of the elder Jeremiah York's sons

Semore York – one of the elder Jeremiah York's sons

Nehemiah Odel – married Mary "Molly" Julian, daughter of Isaac Julian and Barbara White. He was a brother-in-law of John Allred (died 1792). John's 2nd wife was Margaret, daughter of Isaac Julian and Barbara White



Was this the FIRST BATTLE OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION? Yes...Possibly! It was definitely the first battle fought between American Colonists and the army of King George III. But, when the American Revolution started, while most former Regulators fought on the American Patriot side, some of them

²⁶ Colonial and State Records, Vol 7, Pages 733-737

²⁷ Colonial and State Records, Vol 9, Pages 25-27

²⁸ Randolph County, NC Deed Book 4, Page 15

became Tories including Solomon Allred (died 1782). Also, the Regulators were not fighting for Independence from England. They were fighting a corrupt government and wanted taxes and fees Regulated. None of the journals, Petitions or other documents left behind mention Revolution or Independence from England. So, what do you think? Was it the First Battle of the American Revolution?

If you are ever in Central North Carolina, I suggest a visit to Alamance Battleground. Located near the little village of Alamance (near Burlington) the original battlefield has been preserved so you can walk the land where our ancestors fought.

I recommend watching two videos (free on YouTube) to learn more about the Regulators and the Battle of Alamance:

1. Dr. Ted Scott Henson's portrayal of Rednap Howell talking about the Regulators published by the Chatham County, NC Historical Society June 7, 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHPILRiqb-c>
2. "The Regulators of North Carolina 1771 and Scottish Settlers in Colonial America" by History's Who Yesterday's Nation, published April 23, 2020. Although our Allreds were not Scottish, this video does an excellent job of explaining why and how the Regulators formed and the forces that led up to the Battle of Alamance. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5KtPg_E8SYQ

and



If you have access to Starz, Outlander Season 5, Episode 7 is a fictionalized version of the Battle but, in my opinion, very well done. It does an excellent job depicting how Jamie Frazer winds up serving as a Colonel in Tryon's Militia while his Godfather, Murtagh Fitzgibbons was a Regulator – showing how two family members were forced to fire on each other during the Battle of Alamance. It also does an excellent job of showing how fearsome Tryon's army was with their officers and cannons while the Regulators were disorganized and hiding in the woods with no military commanders guiding them. Diana Gabaldon has an entire book series titled Outlander that you may enjoy reading. Book #5 of the series "The Fiery Cross" features the Regulator movement and Battle of Alamance.²⁹



²⁹ The photo depicts Outlander author Diana Gabaldon and her husband walking around Alamance Battleground during a visit and Book Signing on April 28, 2019. The Outlander book series can be purchased at most book retailers and online at Amazon.com The TV Series Outlander is available via Starz and can also be purchased via Amazon.com

Finally, to learn more about the Battle of Alamance and the Regulators, consider joining the Facebook group: The Footprint of Our Ancestors: Battle of Alamance (1771). Administrator Lisa Cox does an excellent job of posting copies of original documents and leading discussions about what happened.



The Footprint of our Ancestors: Battle of Alamance 1771

Public group · 725 members

Joined

+ Invite

About Discussion Rooms Topics Members Events Media



I wrap up this presentation with some photos taken during the 2021 Battle of Alamance Descendants' Gathering held this past May.





Alamance Battleground Friends is a support group dedicated to maintaining the battleground and improving visitor’s experiences. Volunteers keep the grounds cleaned and mowed, clearing storm debris, maintaining the monuments and memorials. Their newest project is creating a Memorial Walkway where visitors can follow a path through the woods where Tryon’s men were encamped and read Memorial Plaques naming ancestors (Regulators/Militia/Army) who were involved in the Battle. Each 4X6 inch plaque will be inscribed with the ancestor’s name and description as you can see below. The cost of each is \$100. If more than one plaque is ordered for an ancestor, the names of the donors will be listed in a Book of Remembrance located in the Visitor’s Center and all proceeds go toward maintaining and upkeep of the Battleground.³⁰

To order a plaque, send your check and ancestor information to:

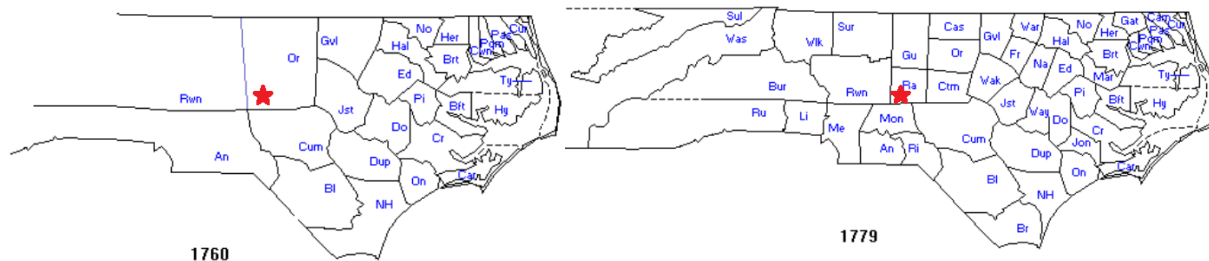
Alamance Battleground
 5803 S NC Hwy 62
 Burlington, NC 27215
 phone: 336 227-4785

| | | | |
|----------|---|----------|---|
| Include: | Ancestor’s Name Regulator or Militia County | Example: | William Allred, Sr. Regulator Orange / Randolph |
|----------|---|----------|---|

³⁰ Photo on left is Lisa D. Cox, Historic Interpreter II, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. Alamance Battleground State Historic Site, 5803 NC 62 South Burlington, North Carolina 27215, 336-227-4785, lisa.d.cox@ncdcr.gov; Photo on right is Dr. Ted Scott Henson, volunteer at Alamance Battleground and former President of Alamance Battleground Friends. www.alamancebattleground.org



Note: Two counties are listed for William Allred, Sr.'s residence because the land he lived on was part of Orange County during the Regulator time period. However, that land became part of Randolph County when it was formed in 1779.³¹



One resource I recommend if you want find out if your ancestors were Regulators or involved in any capacity during the Regulator Movement (1761-1771) is the North Carolina State and Colonial Records online at <https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/>

³¹ Interactive maps of North Carolina county formations are online at <https://www.mapofus.org/northcarolina/>