

GRIST MILLS MENTIONED
in
Rev. Robert Lathan's "Historical Sketches of South Carolina"

Yorkville Enquirer, July 27, 1876:

(Reverend Lathan wrote at length of the Battle of Camden and then traced the movement of Lord Cornwallis' forces toward Charlotte, N. C.)

"In order that the army might suffer as little as possible, during the march, from the want of supplies, Colonel Tarleton was ordered by Lord Cornwallis to lead his command over the Catawba river, at the ferry opposite to Camden, and to march up the west bank of the river as far as Landsford, and then to cross. Cornwallis himself, with the 7th, 23d, 93rd and 71st regiments of infantry, the volunteers of Ireland, Bryan's and Hamilton's regiments of loyalists, four pieces of cannon, fifty wagons and a detachment of cavalry, marched up the eastern bank of the Catawba river. The particular route followed by these British chieftains possesses much interest to the student of history. The difficulty of tracing it with absolute accuracy, makes it still more interesting. From Camden, Cornwallis directed his course to Hanging Rock. At Pleasant Hill, a short distance from Hanging Rock, he took to the left, passing between where Lancaster village is now situated, and the Catawba river. One mile and a half above Landsford, was the **mill of John Blair**, the uncle of General James Blair. Cornwallis took possession of this mill.

"Tarleton followed the trail of Sumter as far as Fishing creek, and then followed the road leading by Union Church as far as **Williford's mill—then White's**. At Williford's mill, he took the road leading to Landsford. On the march, Tarleton took sick and the command of his corps devolved upon Major Hanger. On the 22nd of September [1780], Cornwallis ordered Tarleton to cross the river at Blair's ford, near **Blair's mill**. The sick and a small guard was left at **Blair's mill**; the remaining force moved forward for Charlotte. The route chosen was up what is called the Sugar, more properly, "Sugaw creek" road.

"The distance from Landsford to Charlotte in a direct line, is about forty miles, the distance was comparatively short, but it was attended with serious difficulties. Majors Davie and Davidson were in the field, collecting supplies for the remnant of Gate's army, and in preventing the British scouts and vanguards from depredating upon the inhabitants of the country. Many of the people fled as the British advanced, and not a few took British protection."

One of the most interesting descriptions of the land comes from Lord Cornwallis, the British General, in the Revolutionary War. Cornwallis had gotten up to Charlotte, N. C. where one of the Waxhaw's men, Col. William Richardson Davie, had so harassed him that Cornwallis called Charlotte a hornet's nest and retreated. Cornwallis came down into the Fort Mill area and in his day book

By Robert Latham, a Historical Sketcher of South Carolina.

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Several Latham were members of the Battle of Camden and then joined the Government of Lord Cornwallis, these toward Charleston, N. C.

The order that the army might enter within an hour during the night from the west of supplies, Colonel Latham was ordered by Lord Cornwallis to lead his command over the Catawba river, at the ferry opposite to Camden, and to march up the west bank of the river as far as Landford, and then to march to the falls near the 7th, 8th and 9th regiments of the line. The command of the army and the rest of the regiment of Latham, to the west of Camden, fifty wagons and a detachment of cavalry, marched up the eastern bank of the Catawba river. The route was followed by these troops, but the horses and mules, in the event of a retreat, the difficulty of finding it with absolute accuracy, makes it all more interesting. From Camden, Cornwallis directed the course to Fishing Neck, at Pleasant Hill, about a distance from Fishing Neck, he took to the left, passing between the river and the village of Low situated, and the Catawba river, one mile and a half above Landford, and the way of John Birt, the uncle of General James Bland.

Cornwallis took possession of this road. Latham followed at the top of Sutor as far as Fishing Creek, and then followed the road leading by Fishing Creek as far as Fishing Neck—then to the A. Williford, he took the road leading to Landford, on the eastern bank of the river, and the command of his troops devolved upon Major Latham. On the 22d of September, 1780, Cornwallis ordered Latham to march to the river at Blair's ford, near Fishing Neck, where a small guard was left as a flank guard. The route was toward Fishing Neck, the route chosen was in what is called the "proper" way, and is called the "proper" way. The distance from Landford to Fishing Neck is about forty miles, the distance was considerably short, but it was the road with several difficulties. Major Davis and Davidson were in the head, collecting supplies for the remainder of the army, and in moving the British south and westward from depending upon the first parts of the country of the people that as the British advanced, and now a few took to the mountains.

One of the most interesting of the papers of the late Lord Cornwallis, the British General, in the Rev. Robert Latham, Cornwallis had gotten up to the late M. C. when one of the Waxes's son, Colonel Richard Latham Davis, had been killed in the battle of Fishing Neck, and the general's head and hands, Cornwallis struck with the ball, and in the book

Cornwallis wrote that the countryside looked like an English park. He noted splendid hardwood forests, chiefly oak and hickory, "with no underbrush but greensward as far as the eye can reach."

This park like atmosphere, Lord Cornwallis said, "alternates with level green prairies with buffalo and deer pasturing over them and an abundance of wild turkey racing through open woods."