

## GENERAL WILLIAM CAMPBELL

His Scotch-Irish Ancestry.--His father an early Holston explorer.--William Campbell's birth and education.--Settles on Holston.--A Captain on Dunmore's Campaign.--Raised a company for the first Virginia Regiment in 1775.--Returns for the defense of the frontier.--His military appointments.--Rencounter with an hanging of the bandit Hopkins.--Suppressing Tories up New River.--King's Mountain expedition--his bravery vindicated--Public thanks for his service--Marches to Long Island of Holston.--At Whitzell's Mills and Guilford.--Resigns from ill-treatment.--Made Brigadier-General.--Serves under LaFayette.--Death and character.--Notices of his King's Mountain officers.

The Campbell family, from which the hero of King's Mountain descended, were originally from Inverary, Argyllshire, connected with the famous Campbell clans of the Highlands of Scotland; and emigrated to Ireland near the close of the reign of Queen Elizabeth -- about the year 1600. The northern portion of Ireland received, at that period, large accessions of Scotch Protestants, who proved valuable and useful citizens. Here the Campbells continued to live for several generations, until at length John Campbell, with a family of ten or twelve children, removed to America in 1726, and settled first in Donegal, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where we find one of his sons, Patrick Campbell, born in 1690, serving as a constable in 1720. About 1730, John Campbell, with three of his sons, Patrick among them, removed from Pennsylvania to what was then a part of Orange, now Augusta County, in the rich valley of Virginia. Another authority assigns 1738 as the time of this migration.

Among the children of Patrick Campbell, who thus early settled in Western Virginia, was Charles, who seems to have been born in Ireland before the removal of the family to the New World. He became a prominent and efficient pioneer of the Augusta Valley. He early married a Miss Buchanan, whose father, John Buchanan, Sr., had figured in the wars of Scotland; and from this union sprang William Campbell, who subsequently led the Scotch-Irish patriots of the

Holston Valley against Ferguson at King's Mountain. He was born in Augusta County in 1745; and, though reared on that remote frontier, and amid the excitements and dangers of the French and Indian war of 1755-63, yet he was enabled, as an only son, to secure the best education under the best teachers of that period--David Robinson, a fine scholar, having been, it is believed, among his instructors, as he was of many others of the youth of Augusta of that day. Young Campbell acquired a correct knowledge of the English language, ancient and modern history, and several branches of the mathematics.

His father, Charles Campbell, was not only an enterprising farmer of Augusta, but early engaged in western exploration, and in the acquisition of the rich wild lands of the country. In April, 1748, he made an exploring tour down the Holston, in company with Doctor Thomas Walker, Colonel James Patton, James Wood, and John Buchanan, together with a number of hunters and woodmen. It was on this occasion that Campbell located a fine tract on the North Fork of Holston, where valuable salt springs were afterward discovered, for which he obtained a patent from the Governor of Virginia in 1753. It proved a great benefit alike to his descendants and the country. In an old manuscript written apparently in 1750, it is stated that "John Buchanan and Charles Campbell do not go out this fall"--indicating a contemplated removal, probably to the Holston frontiers. As early as 1742, Charles Campbell was enrolled as a militia-man in the company of John Buchanan; and, in 1752, he was chosen a captain, and doubtless rendered service in the defence of the Augusta Valley during the long period of Indian irruptions and disturbances of Braddock's war. In the latter part of his life he became intemperate, and cut short his career, dying early in 1767.

At his father's death, William Campbell, then a youngman of about twenty-two, resolved to remove with his mother and four young

sisters, to the frontiers of Holston. They migrated there, locating on a fine tract called Aspenvale, twenty-one miles east of the Wolf Hills, now the pleasant town of Abingdon, and one mile west of the Seven Mile Ford. In 1773, he was appointed among the earliest justices of Fincastle County, and, in 1774, a Captain of the militia. Although an early son, and inheriting a considerable property, he never yielded to the fashionable follies of young men of fortune. Devoted to the opening and culture of a plantation in the wilderness, nothing occurred to interfere with the routine of farm life till the breaking out of the Indian war in 1774, when he raised a company of young men, and joining Colonel Christian's regiment; pursued rapidly to overtake Colonel Andrew Lewis, who had preceded them to Point Pleasant, at the mouth of the Kenhawa, where a decisive battle was fought, beating back the Shawanoes and allied tribes. Colonel Christian's re-inforcements, though they made a force march, did not reach the battleground till midnight succeeding the engagement. The next morning the army crossed the Ohio, hastening to join Lord Dunmore, with another division, at the Pickaway plains on the Scioto, where his Lordship concluded a treaty of peace with the defeated and humbled Indian tribes. Thus was Captain Campbell, with all his zeal to engage in active service, and after having traveled hundreds of miles through the wilderness from south-western Virginia to the heart of the Ohio country, compelled to sheathe his sword, and return again to his peaceful home on the Holston.

The aggressions of the British ministry on the rights of American freemen had already made a deep impression on the minds of the Hockhocking, returning from the Scioto expedition, the troops declared, on the fifth of November, 1774--Captain Campbell, no doubt, among the number--that, "as the love of Liberty, and attachment to the real interests and just rights of America outweigh every other consideration,

we resolve that we will exert every power within us the defence of American Liberty, and for the support of her just rights and privileges." And on the twentieth of January ensuing, Colonels Preston and Christian, Arthur and William Campbell, together with William Edmondson, Reverend Charles Cummings, and other leaders of Fincastle County, comprising the Holston settlements, sent a calm and patriotic address to the Continental Congress, announcing, that "if no pacific measurements shall be proposed or adopted by Great Britain, and our enemies attempt to dragoon us out of those inestimable privileges which we are entitled to as subject, and reduce us to slavery, we declare that we are deliberately and resolutely determined never to surrender them to any power upon earth but at the expense of our lives. These are our real, though unpolished, sentiments of liberty and loyalty, and in them we are resolved to live and die." These were noble declarations of William Campbell and associates, proclaimed three months before the first clang of arms at Lexington, four anterior to the patriotic resolves of the people of Mecklenburg, five before the deadly strife on Bunker Hill, and nearly a year and six months before the immortal Declaration of Independence by Congress. These sentiments of the men of Holston formed the key-note of their patriotic efforts throughout the Revolution--and they never flagged a moment, while life lasted, till their liberties were secured.

At length war burst upon the country. Captain Campbell, who had pledged himself at Fort Gower, in 1774, to exert every power within him in the defence of American liberty; and subsequently renewed the solemn declaration "to live and die" in support of the great principles for which Bruce and Wallace, and Hampden and Sidney had, in the past, contended, now entered warmly into the contest, raising the first company in south-western Virginia in support of the common cause,

marching to Williamsburg with his hunting-shirt riflemen, in September 1775, and taking their place in the First Virginia regiment under the command of the famous Patrick Henry. His commission as Captain bore date December fifteenth of that year. Owing to the regiment's confinement to the inactivities of camp life, and the slights and indignities meted out to him, Henry at length resigned the command, when his men, who were devoted to him, went into mourning. Lieutenant-Colonel Christian succeeded to the command, and the regiment was placed on Continental establishment, under General Andrew Lewis; and shared in dislodging Dunmore from Gwyn's Island, July ninth, 1776--the British not fancying a too close contact with the frontier riflemen, exclaimed, as they came in sight, "the shirt-men are coming!" when they, panic-stricken precipitately evacuated the Island.

Shortly after, intelligence came that the Cherokees, instigated by British agents and emissaries, had attacked the frontiers, when Colonel Christian resigned, and returned to the Holston country to lead an expedition against the hostile Indians. When Captain Campbell heard of these border troubles, he felt not a little uneasy on account of the unprotected situation of his mother and sisters; and wrote to Major Arthur Campbell; expressing the hope that all the women and children in the Holston country might be gathered into forts, thus enabling the men to engage in repelling the enemy, adding: "I have the most cogent reasons for endeavoring to resign, and can, I think, do so with honor; and if I possibly can, I shall be with you soon." He felt it was his duty to repair to the frontiers, and lend all his aid in the defence. But he was not able to leave the service until near the close of the year, and thus failed to share in Christian's expedition against the Cherokees. But the delay, perhaps, aided him in securing a noble companion for life, in the person of Miss Elizabeth Henry, a sister of

His old commander, Patrick Henry--the unrivalled orator and statesman of the Revolution. During this service of over a year in eastern Virginia, Captain Campbell acquired a practical knowledge of military tactics, and the discipline of an army, which proved of great value to him in his subsequent campaigns to King's Mountain and Guilford.

On his return home he found the Cherokees, having been subdued, were quiet for awhile. The large County of Fincastle, embracing much of the south-western Virginia and all of Kentuckym was sub-divided; and on the organization of Washington County, in January, 1777, he was continued a member of the Justices' Court, and made Lieutenant-Colonel of the militia, Arthur Campbell having been made County Lieutenant or Colonel Commandant, and Evan Shelby, Colonel. At this term of the court William Campbell, William Edmondson, and two others were appointed commissioners to hire wagons to bring up the County salt allotted by the Government and Council, and receive and distribute the same, making it necessary to wagon the salt fully four hundred miles, over rough roads, from Williamsburg. This was several years before the rich salt wells were discovered on Colonel Campbell's lands on North Holston. In the fall of this year, Colonel Campbell, having been appointed a commissioner for running the boundary line between Virginia and the Cherokees, probably in fulfillment of stipulations of the treaty at Long Island of Holston, in July preceding, performed this service, the line extending from the mouth of Big Creek to the high knob on Cumberland Mountain, a few miles west of Cumberland Gap. During the year 1778, he seems to have been engaged in no special public service.

In the summer of 1779, there was a partial uprising of Tories in Montgomery County, where Colonel Walter Crockett, by his energy, succeeded in quelling the insurrection before it had gained much headway. The same Tory spirit had extended itself into Washington County--and

even into the Watauga and Nolachucky settlements; but the leaders were not open in their movements--rather like bandits, struck their blows in the dark, under disguises and and concealments. Colonel Campbell was very out-spoken against them. His gates were placarded, threatening his life; and an attempt was made to take him, of a dark night, and in a deep forest, by two of these desperadoes, but they mistook their man--otherwise Colonel Campbell would have probably lost his life in their hands.

Not long after, when he was returning from the Ebbing Spring meeting house, where he had been hearing a good Presbyterian sermon, mounted on horseback, accompanied by his wife, his cousin John Campbell and family, Captain James Dysart and wife, James Fullen, a man named Farris, an African negro named Thomas, and others, he discovered a man approaching, on horseback, who turned off into the woods--a suspicious circumstance. Colonel Campbell did not personally know him, but John Campbell did, told the Colonel that it was Francis Hopkins, the Tory bandit. For a year or more Hopkins had given the County authorities much trouble; they had imposed heavy fines upon him for his rascalities, and had placed him under heavy bonds. He had been found guilty of passing counterfeit money--was ordered imprisoned at Coker's Fort on Renfro creek, till the county jail should be completed; and when the new structure was ready for occupancy, it was a rickety affair, and Hopkins one dark night was released from his confinement by the aid of sympathizing Tories who pried the jail door from its hinges, and carried it half a mile away. Thus the bandit and counterfeit evaded further imprisonment, and snapped his finger at justice. He fled to the nearest British garrison--probably in Georgia--where he obtained a commission, with letters to the Cherokee Indians and the white emissaries among them, urging them to fall upon the frontier settlers with fagots, knife and tomahawk. He

was, in every sense, an infamous Tory, and a dangerous character.

Upon learning the name of the stranger, Colonel Campbell instantly spurred his horse, and gave chase to the bandit; and in the course of one or two miles, reaching the deep ford of the Middle Fork of Holston, about a mile above where Captain Thompson then lived, Hopkins, who was mounted on a fine horse, rode down a steep bluff, some fifteen or twenty feet, plunging into the river, Campbell, by this time, was close in pursuit, and not to be balked, followed the bandit into the water. The fearful leap threw Hopkins from his horse; and, before he could recover, Campbell was at him. They had a long and desperate encounter in river, the bandit losing his dirk. Hopkins was the strongest man, and came near drowning Campbell, when Fullen and some of the others, who had followed, came to his relief; and, with their assistance, the bandit was, after something of enforced ducking, subdued and taken to the bank.

Hopkins's reckless character was well known--a leader of a mountain class of desperadoes, who had long infested the country, committing robberies, and defenceless people along the thinly populated frontiers. No time was lost--there was no jail in the county that could hold him, and it was dangerous to the community to suffer such a lawless character to roam at large, threatening the lives of such men as William Campbell. On taking the culprit to the bank of the stream, they searched him, finding his commission, with commissions for others, and the letters to the Cherokees, which he had not yet delivered. The horse he rode was stolen but a few hours before; and he had a new halter tied on behind his saddle, evidently intended for another horse, preparatory, perhaps, for a journey, with some accomplice, to the Cherokee country. But the halter, like Haman's gallows, was put to quite a different use from what was designed; for with it, Hopkins,



who was insolent to Campbell, was speedily hung to the limb of a convenient ~~tree~~ sycamore that leaned over the river. When Colonel Campbell rejoined his wife, she eagerly inquired, "What did you do with him, Mr. Campbell?" "Oh, we hung him, Betty--that's all." The whole country rejoiced at this riddance of one of the greatest pests to society. Others of the abndit party were hunted down, and several of them killed--one on Clinch, and another at the lower end of Washington County, or on the borders of the neighboring County of Sullivan, in now Tennessee.

At the ensuing October session of the Virginia Legislature, an act was passed, at the instance of General Thomas Nelson, Jr., one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and afterwards Governor of the State, to fully meet the case--thought it would seem to have hardly been necessary. The act states, that while the measures for the suppression of "open insurrection and conspiracy" may not have "strictly warranted by law, it was justifiable from the immediate urgency and imminence of the danger"--hence "that William Campbell, Walter Crockett, and other liege subjects of the Commonwealth, aided by detachments of the militia and volunteers from the County of Washington and other parts of the frontiers, did by timely and effectual exertion, suppress and defeat such conspiracy," and they were declared fully exonerated and indemnified for the act.

In April, 1780, Colonel Campbell was promoted to the full rank of Colonel, in place of Evan Shelby, Sr., whose residence, it was now determined, was in North Carolina. He served a term in the house of delegates from early in May, until the twentieth of June, when he obtained leave of absence for the remainder of the session, to engage in an expedition against the Chickamauga towns. Governor Jefferson and his council authorizing him to embody two hundred and fifty militia from Washington and Montgomery counties, and unite with a conjunctive force

from the Carolinas.

But soon after his return home he found a dangerous enemy in the midst of the white settlement. Two hundred Tories of the New river region, within what is now Grayson County, Virginia, and Ashe County, North Carolina, had risen in arms, with some British officers aiding them, with a view of seizing the Lead Mines, near the present Wytheville; when Colonel Campbell, by order of Colonel Preston, took the field in August at the head of one hundred and forty or fifty men, and scoured that wild, mountainous country; and at a place known as the Big Glad es, or Round Meadows, approaching a large party of Tories, the latter under cover of a thick fog, fled, dispersing in every direction, and hiding themselves in the mountains, losing only one of their number in their flight. Colonel Cleveland on a similar service, had captured Zachariah Gose, one of the plundering Sam Brown's gang of murderers, horse-thieves, and robbers, who was tried and immediately hung at Peach Bottom, on New River, in the presence of Cleveland's and Campbell's parties; while two other villains were very well whipped. Colonel Campbell then marched to the old Moravian town of Bethabara, in North Carolina, where he made head-quarters for sometime, sending out detachments in quest of Tory bands--one penetrating into Guilford County, surprised and dispersed two companies of Tories at night, and captured Captain Nathan Read, one of their leaders, and seventeen others--Captain Eli Branson, another of their leaders, narrowly escaped. Read was tried, Colonels Cleveland and Martin Armstrong, and Major Lewis sitting upon the court-martial, was found guilty of crimes and misdemeanors, and condemned to be hung--with alternative presented him of joining the patriots, and serving faithfully to the end of the war, which he declined, meeting his death heroically. Another party of Tories was dispersed above the Shallow Ford of Yadkin.

Returning from his expedition, Colonel Campbell led four hundred brave riflemen from Washington County across the Alleghanies to meet Ferguson's Rangers and the united Tories of the Carolinas. Their utter discomfiture has been fully related; and too much praise cannot well be accorded to "the hero of King's Mountain" for his gallant bearing during the campaign generally, and especially for his heroic conduct in the battle. It is a matter of regret that such patriots as Shelby and Sevier should have been deceived into the belief that the chivalric Campbell shirked from the dangers of the conflict, mistaking, as they did, the Colonel's servant in the distance for the Colonel himself; when well-nigh forty survivors of the battle, including some of Campbell's worthiest officers, and men of Shelby's, Sevier's and Cleveland's regiments as well, testifying, of their own knowledge, to his personal share in the action, and specifying his presence in every part of the hotly-contested engagement, from the beginning to the final surrender of the enemy at discretion. It is evident that such heroes as Shelby and Sevier had quite enough to do within the range of their own regiments, without being able to observe very much what was transpiring beyond them. And what Shelby honestly supposed was a vague confession by Campbell of unaccountable conduct on his part in the latter part of the action, simply referred to his too precipitate order to fire on the unresisting Tories when Colonel Williams had been shot down after the close of the contest. But in such a victory, without unjustly detracting from Campbell's great merits and rich deservings, there is both honor and fame enough for all his worthy compatriots also. It may be proper to note, that the sword that Colonel Campbell wielded at King's Mountain, and subsequently at Guilford--his trusty Andrea di Ferrana--more than a century old, was used by his Caledonian ancestors in the wars of the Pretenders, and is

yet preserved by his Preston descendants.

Colonel Campbell would have been more or less than mortal, had he not felt a sense of satisfaction for the high praises showered upon him and his associates for the decisive triumph achieved at King's Mountain--emanating from Gates, Washington, the Legislature of Virginia and the Continental Congress. The latter august body voted, that it entertained "a high sense of the spirited and military conduct of Colonel Campbell" and his associates; while the Virginia House of Delegates voted its "thanks to Colonel Campbell, his officers and soldiers, for their patriotic conduct in repairing to the aid of a distressed sister State, and after "a severe and bloody conflict," had achieved a decisive victory; and that "a good horse with elegant furniture, and a sword, be purchased at the public expense, and presented to Colonel William Campbell as a further testimony of the high sense the General Assembly entertains of his late important services to his country." To these high compliments of the Legislature, Colonel Campbell returned the following modest acknowledgement:

"Gentlemen, I am infinitely happy in receiving this public testimony of the approbation of my country of my late services in South Carolina. It is a reward far above my expectations, and I esteem it the noblest a soldier can receive from a virtuous people. Through you, gentlemen, I wish to communicate the high sense I have of it to the House of Delegates. I owe, under Providence, much to the brave officers and soldiers who served with me, and I shall take the earliest opportunity of transmitting the resolve of your House to them, who, I am persuaded, will experience all the honest heart-felt satisfaction I myself feel on this occasion."

Now hurrying to his frontier home on the Holston, he found that the restless Cherokees had again been at their bloody work, and Colonel Arthur Campbell had in December, 1780, aided by Colonel Sevier

and Major Martin, led forth a strong force for their chastisement. Colonel William Campbell at once raised additional troops, and marched as far as Long Island of Holston, to succor his kinsman if need be; but it was not necessary, for the Cherokees were pursued in detached parties by their invaders, many of their warriors were killed, and their settlements desolated.

On the 30th of January, 1781, General Greene wrote to "the famous Colonel William Campbell," reminding him of the glory he had already acquired, and urging him "to bring, without loss of time, a thousand good volunteers from over the mountains." Notwithstanding the Cherokees were still troublesome, and threatening the frontiers, the noted Logan, with a northern band, was committing depredations on Clinch, while others were doing mischief in Powell's Valley, yet Colonel Campbell raised over a hundred of his gallant riflemen, and moved forward on February twenty-fifth, others joining him on the way until he brought General Greene, about the second of March, a reinforcement of over four hundred mountaineers. Lord Cornwallis had imbibed a personal resentment towards Colonel Campbell, as the commander at King's Mountain, threatening that should he fall into his hands, he would have him instantly put to death for his vigor against the Tories--evidently designing to hold him personally responsible for the execution of the Tory leaders at Bickerstaff's. This, instead of intimidating, had the contrary effect; and Campbell, in turn, resolved, if the fortunes of war should place Cornwallis in his power, he should meet the fate of Ferguson.

Could anything have served to give additional spirit to Colonel Campbell, and nerve him to almost superhuman exertions, it was such a dastardly threat as that uttered by Lord Cornwallis. Campbell and his men were soon called into action. Taking advantage of a thick fog, Lord Cornwallis sent forward a strong force to beat

up the quarters of Green's advance parties--or, as Greene supposed either to intercept his stores, or cut off the Light Infantry, including the riflemen, from the main body.

After no little manoeuvring, the battle of Guilford took place on the fifteenth of March. It was brought on by a sharp action, in the morning, by the advance, consisting of Lee's Legion, and a portion of Campbell's riflemen--in which Lee was supposed to have inflicted a loss of fifty on the part of Tarleton; while the Light Infantry of the Guards were so hard pressed by the riflemen, losing a hundred of their number, that a portion of Tarleton's cavalry went to their relief. In the main battle that soon followed Lee's Legion and Campbell's riflemen formed the corps of observation on the left flank--the riflemen occupying a woodland position. During the obstinate contest, Campbell's corps fought with the heroic bravery characteristic of their noble leader, and of their own unrivalled reputation. When the enemy charged the Maryland Line, Campbell with his riflemen made a spirited attack on the regiment of Boze, on the British right wing, and drove it back; and when the riflemen, in turn, were charged with the bayonet, having none to repel them, they were obliged for the moment to retire, still loading and firing, however, on their pursuers, and thus, whether charging or retiring, kept up a destructive fire on these veteran German subsidiaries. So severely did Campbell's riflemen handle his right wing, that Lord Cornwallis was obliged to order Tarleton to extricate it, and bring it off. By this time Lee had retired with his cavalry, without appraising Campbell of his movements, and the result was, that the riflemen were swept from the field.

Lee commended Colonel Campbell for the bravery displayed in the action by his battalion; and Green assured him, that his "faithful services" claimed his General's warmest thanks, and his "entire approbation of his conduct"--adding; "Sensible of your merit, I feel a

pleasure in doing justice to it." Displeased with the treatment shown to himself and riflemen--who were the first in the engagement, and the last in the field--Campbell retired in disgust from the service. At his home on the Holston, he announced himself, on the thirty-first of March, as a candidate for the House of Delegates, saying: "The resignation of my military commission, which I could not longer hold with honor, after the treatment I have received, puts it out of my power to serve my country as an officer." Campbell and his men felt deeply aggrieved--feeling that Lee had abandoned them without notice, and left them to maintain the unequal contest unprotected by cavalry; when Tarleton directed his dragoons against them.

"You have no doubt observed," wrote General William B. Davis, "that Campbell's regiment of riflemen acted with Lee on the left flank of the army. After the main body of the army had been pushed off the field, these troops remained engaged with the Yagers of the regiment of Boze, near the Court House, some of them covered by houses, others by a skirt of thick wood. In this situation, they were charged by the British cavalry, and some of them were cut down. Lee's cavalry were drawn up on the edge of the open ground, above the Court House, about two hundred yards off, and, as Colonel Campbell, asserted, moved as his charge was made on his riflemen. On the day after the action, Campbell was extremely indignant at this movement, and spoke freely of Lee's conduct. Lee was, however, sent off the same day, to watch the enemy's movements, and Campbell's regiment were soon discharged.

"Lee's abandonment of Campbell's riflemen," said the late William C. Preston, "at twilight, and without giving notice of his withdrawal, was long regarded by the survivors with the most bitter feelings, which were subsequently revived by the manner in which he sunk their services and sufferings in his published account of the battle."

This, at least, is expressive of the sentiments of Campbell and his men; and, at this late day, it is difficult to determine whether Lee was excusable, or culpable, for the course he pursued. But well-merited compliments and soothing words, on the part of General Greene, did not change Colonel Campbell's determination to withdraw from the service. He accordingly left camp on the morning of the twentieth; and returning home resigned his commission in the militia.

Colonel Campbell, as the oldest serving Justice in the County Court, became entitled to a term of the office of Sheriff, but declined the position. He was chosen to represent Washington County in the House of Delegates. The General Assembly convened at Richmond early in May of this year; but owing to the approach of the enemy, they adjourned to meet at Charlottesville on the twenty-fourth of that month; and, on June the fourth, they were compelled hurriedly to adjourn to Staunton to escape capture by Tarleton. During the session disturbed as it was, much important public business was transacted. Colonel Campbell was placed on several of the leading committees, associated with Patrick Henry and other prominent patriots--on privilege and elections, the establishment of martial law, and amendment of the militia act. General Morgan was again called into service by the Legislature; and a few days later, on the fourteenth of June, the House of Delegates chose Colonel Campbell a Brigadier General of the militia, to serve under Marquis De La Fayette, then commanding in Virginia, which was concurred in by the Senate the following day. On the sixteenth, General Campbell obtained leave of absence from the remainder of the session, and at once repaired to La Fayette's camp for service. He became a favorite of that gallant nobleman, who assigned him to the command of a brigade of light infantry and riflemen.

But General Campbell's services were destined to a sudden



termination. Taken with a complaint in his breast, he was conveyed to the residence of Colonel John Syme, his wife's <sup>half</sup> brother, at Rocky Mills, in Hanover County, where, after a few days' illness, he expired, August the twenty-second, 1781, in his thirty-sixth year. When La Fayette received intelligence of the death of his friend, he issued a general order announcing the sad event, characterizing General Campbell as "an officer whose services must have endeared him to every citizen, and in particular to every American soldier. The glory which General Campbell has acquired in the affairs of King's Mountain and Guilford Court House, will do his memory everlasting honor, and insure him a high rank among the defenders of Liberty in the American cause; "General La Fayette regretting that the funeral was so great a distance from the army, as to deprive him and his officers the privilege of paying to General Campbell the honors due his rank, and "Particularly to his merit" and deputed four field officers to repair to Rocky Mills and, in behalf of the army, pay him their last tribute of respect.

Here his remains reposed until 1823, when his relatives had them removed to his old ~~name~~ Aspenvale homestead on the Holston, in now Smyth County, beside his mother, little son, and other relatives, and where a neat monument was erected to his memory. His widow, a son, and a daughter survived him--the widow subsequently uniting in marriage with General William Russell; the son died young; the daughter, Sarah, became the wife of General Francis Preston, and mother of Hon. William C. Preston, General John S. Preston, and Colonel Thomas L. Preston. General Campbell's widow died in November 1825, aged about eighty; and his daughter Mrs. Preston, died at Abingdon, Virginia, July 23, 1846, at the age of nearly seventy years.

There was something akin to rivalry between Colonel Arthur Campbell and his brother-in-law, William Campbell, whose sister

Margaret he had married. She was a woman of excellent mind, and of uncommon beauty and sprightliness; and withal she possessed no little ambition, which she endeavored to turn to good account in her husband's behalf. This young wife encouraged him in all his plans by which he might acquire distinction as a public man. Her whole mind seemed completely absorbed in this one great object of her life, to which every other must bend; no privation, however great, annoyed her in the smallest degree, if she believed it would contribute to the requirement of either military or civil reputation for her husband. Her extreme solicitude and promptings to push him up the ladder of fame, caused him sometimes to make false steps, and involved him in unnecessary altercations with his brother-in-law and others. Except these ambitious efforts, and they were always prompted in a manner to gratify her husband, she was among the most exemplary of women, never having a thought in opposition to his upon any subject, and believing him to be the greatest man in the country, not excepting her brother, of whose abilities she entertained a very exalted opinion.

Colonel Arthur Campbell was some three years the senior of William Campbell, this fact, and his having been in youth a prisoner with the Indians, had given him the precedence in martial affairs. His military talents, however, were not of the first order, while William Campbell thought the experience he had gained on the Point Pleasant campaign, and during his year's service in the Williamsburg region, in 1775-76, fairly entitled him to lead his brother-in-law, who would not acquiesce in this view, and jealousies were the consequence, and sometimes open ruptures. There appears to have been a sort of quasi understanding between them, that they should take turns in commanding the Washington forces on military expeditions against the enemy. While Colonel William Campbell led the troops against the Tories up New river, the men composing the command were only in part

from Washington County; and, hence he was permitted to go on the King's Mountain campaign, heartily seconded in his efforts by Col. Arthur Campbell. The latter led the expedition in December following against the Cherokees; and when, shortly after, William Campbell received the urgent invitation from General Greene to join him with a band of riflemen, Colonel Arthur Campbell interposed objections, nominally on the ground of danger from the Indians, but probably prompted in fact somewhat by his jealousy of his brother-in-law's growing fame as a leader in expeditions against the enemy.

General Campbell had a very imposing personal appearance--the beau ideal of a military chieftain with those who served under him. He was about six feet, two inches high, possessing a large, muscular, well proportioned frame--rather raw-boned; with an iron constitution, capable of almost incredible endurance--and he was as straight as an Indian. His complexion was ruddy, with light colored or reddish hair, and bright blue eyes. His countenance presented a serious--nay, stern appearance; and when not excited expressive of great benevolence; but when his ire was stirred, he exhibited the fury of an Achilles. On such occasions he would commit violent and indiscreet acts; he was, however, easily calmed, particularly when approached by those in whom he reposed confidence--to such he would yield his opinions without the slightest opposition. In conversation he was reserved and thoughtful; in his written communications, expressive and ~~stagnant~~ elegant. He was bland in his manners, and courteous in all with whom he had intercourse, whether high or low, rich or poor. At preaching in the country it was his constant custom to look around after sermons was ended, and assist all the women of the neighborhood, especially the more aged, who were not attended, on their horses.

Of Scottish descent, he inherited the principles and predilections of his persecuted Presbyterian ancestors of that northern land.

His religious zeal--certainly in theory--and his devotion to liberty were alike deep, fervent, and exclusive. In his domestic and social relations, he was the most amiable of men. He would send his servants to aid a poor neighbor, while he would himself plow through the heat of the day in his fields, giving his spare moments to his Bible and his God, endeavoring scrupulously to live up to the golden rule in all his dealings with his fellow men. But he set his face like a flint against the enemies of his country and of freedom, proving himself almost as inflexible as a Claverhouse or a Cumberland toward those who betrayed or deserted the holy cause for which he contended, and for which he died.

But it was as a military genius that he shone preeminent. He had the ability to form able plans--confidence in himself, and indefatigable perseverance to execute them; and the rare capacity to inspire all under his command with his own confidence and indomitable courage. He had acted on as conspicuous a stage as Warren or Montgomery, his name and fame would have been as illustrious as theirs. With inferior numbers of undisciplined volunteers, embodied with great celerity, led forth, with scanty supplies, nearly two hundred miles over rugged mountains, he totally defeated Ferguson one of the most experienced and enterprising of the British partisan leaders--gaining, as he expressed it, "victory to a wish." At Guilford he fully sustained his high reputation, and had the North Carolina militia behaved with the firmness and courage equal to his riflemen, the army of Cornwallis would not have been crippled only, but would, in all probability, have met with irretrievable disaster.

General Campbell never balanced between military duty and prudential maxims. Himself a hater of vice and treason in every form, he was by some deemed too severe in punishing the deviations of others--yet his acts, in his own estimation, were the result of the

purest patriotic impulses. Wherever the story of King's Mountain and Guilford is read, and the services of their heroes fully appreciated, it will be found that William Campbell has "purpled o'er his name with deathless glory."

--King's Mountain and Its Heroes  
by Lyman C. Draper, LL. D.