

Fort Defiance

Chronicle

Summer Issue

June 2021

Fort Defiance

P.O. Box 686

Lenoir, NC
28645

828-758-1671

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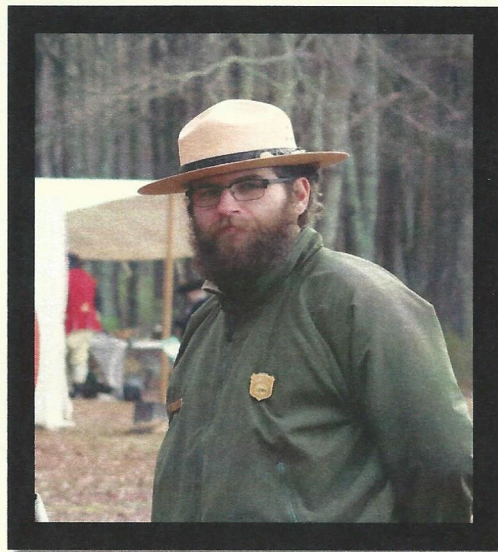
Kelly Coffey

LUNCH AND LEARN WITH THE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Saturday, June 19, 2021

11:00 A.M.



William Caldwell, Park Guide
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

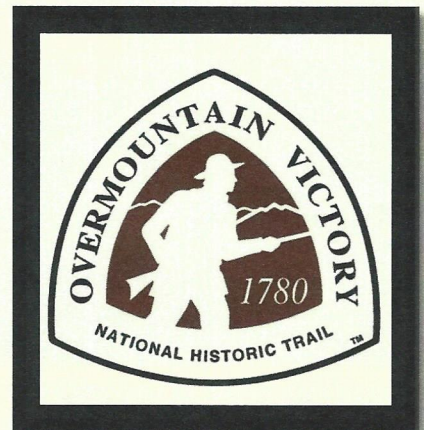
Southern Campaign of the American
Revolution Group

National Park Service
338 New Pleasant Road

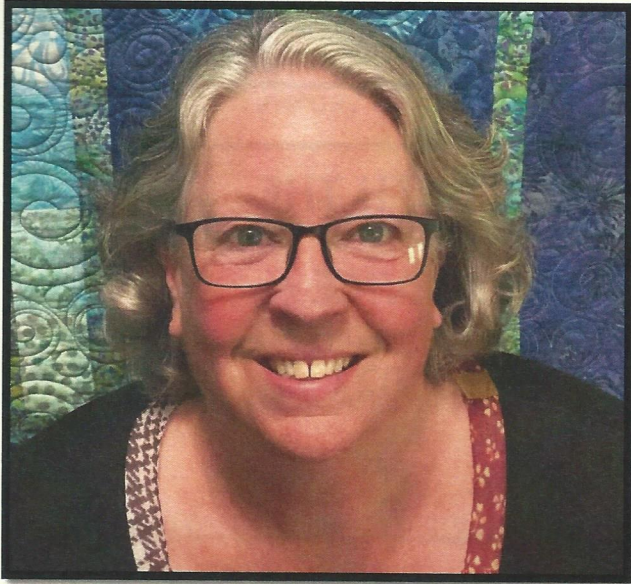
Gaffney, SC 29341
(864) 461-2828 x2109

Fort Defiance is excited to partner with the National Park Service for a "Lunch and Learn" program on June 19th from 11:00 am to 2 pm. William Caldwell, Park Guide, will be telling the story of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail at 12:30. A information tent with brochures and a opportunity to learn more will be on site.

This is a **free** event, so please bring your lunch and a chair and plan to spend the day.



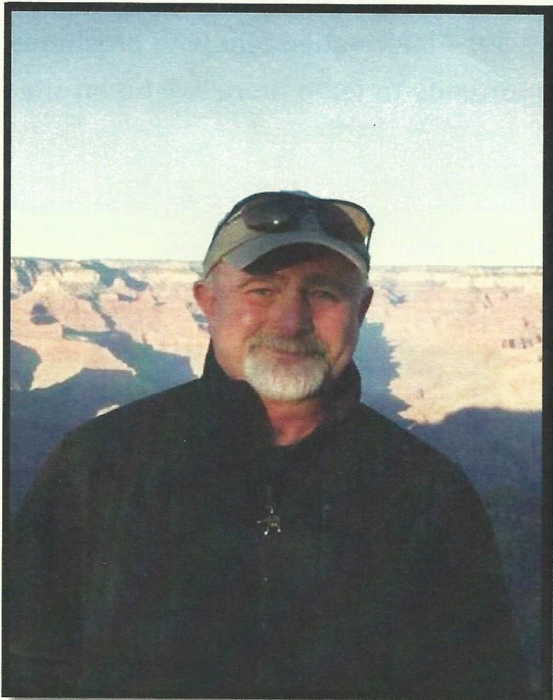
Board of Directors



Tina Triplett

My name is Tina Woods Triplett and I was born in Caldwell County. My father was a career Navy man and I spent the first 13 years of my life in Rhode Island. When he retired we returned to the family land in Happy Valley where I have lived, on and off, for the last 40 years. Some say I still have an accent but I'm southern through and through. I live on land that has Bald Cypress trees grown with seeds from the Bald Cypress at Fort Defiance and planted by George "Cap" Weise and his daughter, Mary. Cap, the headmaster at Patterson School taught my father to fly fish who in turn taught me. To this day fishing is one of my favorite pastimes.

I retired from a career in corporate and then public accounting in 2015 and enjoy having time for other interests. As I mentioned before, I enjoyed fishing and canoeing with my husband, Ned, who passed away from colon cancer. I have two children and 2 grandchildren that give my life great joy. I volunteer at Helping Hands Clinic and enjoy organic and heirloom gardening, and of course there is quilting.



Monty Minton

I am a graduate of Wilkes Central High School and Appalachian State University, and have a BS degree in Industrial Arts with Minors in City Management and Regional Planning.

I worked in lumber and wood product sales before joining Bernhardt Furniture Company as a Purchaser of Wood Products. Since 1985, I have been owner and manager of Minton Sales, Inc. which is a lumber drying complex that exports lumber worldwide.

I am married to Donna Moore Minton and live in Lenoir, NC. We have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

Hobbies are wood working, travel, golf, biking and boating.

William Lenoir's Military Service

The following is "A rough draught" of the militia services of General William Lenoir describing his military service dealing with Tories and Indians and his involvement in the American Revolution and the Battle of Kings Mountain. This was written by General Lenoir on May 2, 1833 in preparation for his military pension application. Much of the information on Kings Mountain is included in Lyman C. Draper's book "King Mountain and It's Heroes". Lenoir's full account included in Draper's book has many more details which must have been added subsequent to this "rough draught". This writing also documents Lenoir's service with "Light Horse" Harry Lee, Robert E. Lee's father. William Lenoir served as a Captain at the time of the battle of King's Mountain but relinquished command of his men to advance with the mounted men in pursuit of Col. Patrick Ferguson as the foot soldiers could not advance quickly enough. Lenoir helped raise about 200 men from Surry and Wilkes counties to march in this tour. He was promoted to Major General in 1795. Lenoir kept a very detailed daily journal of his involvement in the Indian Campaigns of 1776 under General Rutherford which is a separate document. The original handwritten documents are in the possession of Ike Forester. Spelling and punctuations have been left as Lenoir wrote.

In the year 1776 as well as I can recollect there was a requisition of Government for raising men under the Denomination of Minute men and Capt. Jos Walton raised a Company of Minute men accordingly in Surry County in the Province of North Carolina who being in service in order to suppress an insurrection in the lower part of said province, I voluntarily attached myself to said Capt. Walton's company as a soldier although I was regularly the Lieutenant of a Militia Company commanded by Capt. Joseph Herndon, I marched with the said Walton about fifty miles and was at the taking of a Tory Colonel called Gidion Right, and being taken too sick to march with said Company any further I was discharged as well as I can recollect I was on said expedition two weeks.

There was different calls for the Militia of said County of Surry to march towards the lower part of said Province I believe to Wilmington to suppress what was called the Scotch Insurrection and in obedience to said calls I embarked in those two expeditions as a Lieutenant under Capt. Joseph Herndon and in one of said expeditions marched past the Shallowford of the Yadkin River being from the place of rendezvous about 60 or 70 miles and in the other expedition we marched nearly the same distance before our marches were countermanded. In the aforesaid 2 expeditions I was in the Public Service between five and six weeks to the best of my recollection.

New River Ranger

In the summer of the year 1776 as Surry was a frontier County and the inhabitants there of much alarmed by depredations committed by the Cherokee Indians I was ordered to raise a Company and station at some convenient place on the headwaters of the Yadkin and to range the Blue Ridge between the Yadkin River and New River and guard the inhabitants on the waters of said Yadkin River against the incursions that might with much ferocity have been

made by said Indians, the few inhabitants that had settled on New River having vacated their possessions for fear of said Indians. I as Captain of said Company continued in said service I believe six weeks or upwards. [Note – Lenoir raised 50 men for this Company, they were known as "Lenoir's Rangers".]

March Against the Cherokee

And sometime in the month of August in the same year 1776 there was a call for volunteers to march against said Cherokees and my company of Rangers aforesaid not all being prepared for said march, I accepted of an appointment of First Lieutenant under Captain Benjamin Cleveland who having a very large Company was allowed two Lieutenants and marched with Martin Armstrong the Colonel Commandant of the Regiment of Militia of said County of Surry under the command of Gen. Griffith Rutherford to the Cherokee nation and found their Towns evacuated which we destroyed, at what was called the middle Towns Captain Cleveland with a few of his men were stationed and myself being placed at the head of the Principal part of said Company as Captain marched with the aforesaid Col. Armstrong & Gen. Rutherford to the Highwassee Towns which we destroyed and killed a few of the Indians. The South Carolina Militia was to have met us at the Middle Towns but receiving no information from them we marched to Highwassee as aforesaid along an old Indian path that was said to be the nearest way, and after our departure the South Carolinians arrived at said middle Towns and traveled an other path towards Highwassee and they were attacked by a party of Indians who had formed an ambuscade but by the prudent conduct of the officers they were soon dislodged and as were supposed carried off their dead. I believe the Indians killed 15 of the South Carolinians who were buried in a swamp and a pole cosway made over them on which we march in returning to the middle Towns where I again assumed the command of Lieut., as well as I can recollect I had the command of Captain twenty days or perhaps more, and my whole service as Lieut. In that expedition seventy days makes about three months, we had but few men killed by the Indians, but a considerable number died after they returned home in consequence of their exposure, privation and fatigue, in which I suffered much but by aid of a good constitution I survived – After that time I was regularly appointed Captain of a Company of Militia in Surry County in the manner practiced at that time and after Wilkes was taken off of Surry continued to hold the same command over the same district and in that capacity performed the following tours of duty (to wit) I was ordered to march my Company down hunting Creek to detect some outlying Tories, I believe my Company remained embodied for some weeks but as I can not remember precisely how they were occupied I will say only three days. I believe that was in the year 1778.

Subduing Outlying Tories

And as well as I can remember in the fall of the same year I was ordered by Col. Ben Cleveland to march my Company with him over the Blue Ridge and down New River to Virginia to subdue some outlyers and other Tories in those parts, and as well as I can recollect was continued in the service twenty six days.

And as well as I can remember soon after the above mentioned tour I was ordered by the said Col. Cleveland to march my Company with him over the Brushy Mountain and down the lower Creek to subdue the Tories in that quarter, and I believe I was continued in the service twenty days.

And as well as I can remember in May or June 1779 I was ordered by said Col. Cleveland to march my Company with him up the Yadkin River and down the Catawba River to apprehend Whitson and his Company of outlying Tories and some others, and as we marched down said Catawba River his brother Col. Larkin Cleveland was badly wounded by a shot from a high cliff of rock supposed to be by an outlying Tory who made his escape – Col. Cleveland sent me with about forty men well mounted to traverse the woods between the Catawba River and the South fork thereof in quest of Whitson and his Company which we did for one whole night without success, and as well as I can recollect I was continued in service one month.

Col. Ben Cleveland on receiving information that late in the morning that the Tories were embodied toward the head of the Yadkin came up to the courthouse about 14 miles and we raised about two hundred men and at daybreak next morning we had marched under his command by estimation 21 miles to the place where we expected to meet said Tories but we were informed that they had precipitately passed by, towards the south and we pursued them with speed as far as Lincolnton but did not arrive there until after the celebrated Battle at Ramsours mill in which the Tories were vanquished, and we returned through Iredell County etc. and was continued in service I believe one month at least.

King's Mountain Expedition

In the month of August or September in the year 1780 I was ordered by Col. B. [Benjamin] Cleveland to march with my Company of Militia southwardly against the British who had been harassing the people in Burke and adjacent county and after entering the said County of Burke, Col Cleveland on receiving information that a hundred tories were encamped at Little Johns meeting house a few miles in our front ordered me to take 25 men well mounted and approach the said Tory camp until they fired on us and to retreat without returning the fire in order to draw them into an ambushade which he would form for that purpose but he sent an express after me with directions to send those men back except 5 that I would chose to retain with me for the afsd [aforesaid] purpose; but when we approached said camps the Tories had evacuated them and in said County of Burke we met with some Virginia Militia under the command of Col Campbell and some Militia from the west side of the Blue Ridge under command of Col Sheby [Shelby] and Sevier, and the Burke Militia under the command of Col Charles McDowell and marched to Rutherford County where on receiving some information of the progress of the army composed British and Tories commanded by Col Ferguson. Orders were given for every man that had, or could furnish himself with a suitable horse, should be ready to march at sunrise the next morning, and as there was not a regular officer of soldier with us except two who had entered on that expedition as militia soldiers, nor no militia officer above the



grade of Colonel it was agreed that Col Campbell of Virginia should command said detachment and marched accordingly, and on the way we were joined by some militia from South Carolina under the command of Col Williams which increased our number to about seven hundred from the best calculation I could make, and leaving about fifteen hundred footmen behind we marched that day and all night being dark and rainy and next day being the 7th day of October 1780 we attacked the aforesaid Col Ferguson on King's mountain near the line between North and South Carolina and killed and took the whole of his army amounting to 1187 by the best calculation we could make from his papers, not a man that was in camp at the commencement of the attack making his escape, the dead on the enemy's side was reported to be 250 and on the whig side 32 in said battle I was wounded in my left side and also in my left arm and another bullet past through my hair above where it was tied. The next day we marched from the battle ground with the prisoners 725 in number counted by me that were compelled to carry the guns we had taken (a considerable number of them 2 guns each) exclude of officers and the wounded and unhealthy etc. and we met the footmen we had left as aforesaid about sunset, after a few days marching we halted in Rutherford County where a court martial composed of field officers selected about 32 of the most atrocious offenders and proceeded to hang three at a time until nine were hanged, and the others were respited and we proceeded on with the prisoners to the Moravian Towns. The expedition to Kings Mountain passed for a three months tour, but to the best of my recollection I was only 85 days in actual service in said expedition.

Pursuit of the British

Before Cornwallace arrived at Salisbury I turned out with my company together with six other captains with their companies as volunteers to join Genl. Green expecting to meet with him at or near Salisbury and as there was no field officer with us a dispute arose on the way between myself and Captain Benjamin Herndon respecting seniority, and being unable to determine said dispute it was left to the soldiers present to make choice of a commander for that tour and direction being given for the soldiers to follow the man of their choice all but about six followed me and I assumed the command accordingly, but before we reached Salisbury I received information that Genl. Green had marched towards Virginia and that Cornwallace was near to Salisbury I turned my course toward Salem and crossed the Yadkin at Enock's ferry and on the way, by Slratigun [?] retook 3 British officers who had been taken at the battle at the Cowpens and made their escape from the guard, and also took several outlying Tories with them, soon after that I was encamped one night very near to the old Moravian Town where I received information that the British army was in said Town, and I knew not where Genl. Green was we marched up towards Mitchells River and met with Genl. Pickins and I with about 40 mounted infantry joined Genl. Pickins leaving the remainder of our men with Captain Herndon and I continued under the command of Genl. Pickins until sometime after Cornwallace left Hillsborough in the mean time Genl. Pickins having heard that Col Tarlton had marched with his dragoons and infantry cross Haw River we pursued him crossing said river at Bochtors ? ford Col Lee with his cavalry having joined Genl. Pickins, in pursuing said Tarlton fell in with Dr. Piles [Pyles] a Tory Col. who had embodied a regiment of perhaps 3 or 400 tories which we cut to pieces and rushed on expecting they were part of Tarlton's army but we could not meet with Tarlton that evening but received

information that Tarlton was encamped at Col. Oneils. Gen. Pickins sent ad taken, but finding that we could not overtake him before he would reach his headquarters at Hillsborough we turned our course up the north side of Haw River, and on the second or third night afterwards information was received that the British army were coming against us near at hand, Col. Lee's dragoons had left us and Major Mecagah Lenies a very active Federal Officer in reconnoitering approached near to Tarlton's dragoons believing them to be Lee's where he received several wounds which terminated his life and we marched off in good order and in a few days joined Genl. Green near the high rock ford of Haw River, we were since informed that Cornwallace and his whole army were coming against us the night that Maj. Lenies was killed and being at that time Clerk of Wilkes County Court I was obliged to return home, from the best calculation I can make I believe I was in the public service six weeks in said expedition.

May 2: 1833 Genl. S. Finley Patterson drew off my Certificate for making Application for a Pention old Mr. William Gilreath proved some of the Services etc – Revd Thomas Fletcher Esq

Sworn as to my character and

Genl. E. Jones

their belief of the statements

Col. Wm. P. Waugh

& Maj John Finley

2nd May 1833

A rough draught of the militia services of Wm. Lenoir in the Revolutionary war as a Soldier Lieutenant and Captain for which application was made for a Pension NB. Several small tours are omitted and the Printed instructions of the Secretary of War about Pensions and some letters

Days

As Captain 298

Lieutenant 105

Com Soldier 14

417

Wish List

1. Gravel for driveway approximately \$1,500
2. Past Perfect Inventory software approximately \$2,000
3. Office supplies, i.e. printers ink, business envelopes, paper, file folders, cleaning supplies, toilet tissue, paper towels, soap etc.
4. Volunteers—regular or occasional—docents, administrative skills as well as special skills, such as grounds care, building repair or cleaning
5. Bottled water or soft drinks as well as snacks for volunteers.

Historical Highlights

1791— Letter written to Robert Adams, a merchant in Fayetteville, NC, giving directions about importing from England some articles of furniture for the house at Fort Defiance, such as carpets and looking glasses. The letter is dated 13th July, 1791. Gen. Lenoir says, speaking of the looking glasses of which were six: "I should be glad to have my name nicely set on each glass or frame."

1799—An act was passed to lay off the town of Wilkesboro.

1800, May—By request of T. Fields and the other commissioners, I drew the plans of Wilkesboro in the evening and night of 20th, and laid off the town 21st May 1800. Robert Martin and Geo. Gordon, two of the commissioners, were chain carriers, and the lots were sold 22 May 1800.

Board Highlights

- A donation of an 1820 corner cabinet that belonged to the Lenoir family has been gifted back to the site. Arrangements will be made to get it to the site.
- Preparations continue for the fundraiser and celebration of William Lenoir's 270th birthday party. Rain date is set for May 15th.
- A map done by Mr. Montgomery of Walter Lenoir's land dated 1868 has been offered to the Fort. It is currently in the possession of Steve Sudderth and he would like for it to be digitized and a copy given back to him. It measures 42 x 42.
- Tina Triplett and Monty Minton, have agreed to positions on the board of directors. This makes a full slate of board members.
- News from the Covington Foundation about a grant for the roof is expected in May.
- Stephen Rauchfuss offered to supply paint for the bathroom and the Visitor Center.

Site Director Resigns

Kristin Robbins, who has been serving as site director for the past year, has resigned, effective May 8, to take full-time employment elsewhere. She plans to continue as a volunteer as she is available. The Board of Directors wishes her well in her new endeavor. During the interim, every effort is being made to keep the site open during the regularly announced hours.

The Board is receiving applications for a new part-time site director. For information regarding the application process, contact Sandra Watts, Board Chairperson at fortdefiancenc@gmail.com or call 828-758-1671.



Brushy Mountain Ramblers

Pictures from the William Lenoir's 270th Birthday



A big thank you to all the musicians that came out, Pat & Kay Crouch, Brushy Mountain Ramblers and thank you to all our volunteers. Front Row—R. G. Absher, Bob Kogut, Kristen Robbins, Greg Jones, Roberta Kogut. Second Row—Nell Fisher, Bill Karr, Julie Mullis, A. J. Bennett, Ike Forester, Sandra Watts, Stephen Rauchfuss, Doug Davis, and Tina Triplett. Not pictured: Monty Minton, Eddie & Christine Beach.



Patrick and Kay Crouch

FRIENDS OF FORT DEFIANCE

The following members have joined for 2021:

Patriot/Individual

Wanda Prince
Oscar Dobereiner
Cheryl Hill Sanborn

Militia/Family

John Hawkins
Nell Fisher & Bill Karr
R Kelly Coffey
Betty Buss
Jean & Steve Branch
Jeanette A. Jacob

Captain/Patron

Mary Kincaid
Dr. John W. & Hanna Thuss
Joe & Frances Delk
Lucy F. McCarl
Samuel & Sandra Ramsey
Jerry & Millie Brooks
David B Smith
Jeff and Rita Joines
Chuck Forester (In Honor of Ike Forester)

James Pennell
Monty & Brenda Combs
Catherine Lenoir Brown Simpson (In loving memory of Carol Jean Sellers Brown)
Tina Triplett (in Memory of Ned Triplett)
Kim Browning (in Memory of Beck Phillips Forester)

Lieutenant

Stephen Rauchfuss

Colonel/ Sponsor

General/ Benefactor

Building Labatory LLC

Interested in becoming a Friend of Fort Defiance? Memberships are available for individuals, families, and corporations who are looking to support local history. Each level of membership comes with perks when visiting Fort Defiance. For example, free admission when visiting on regular days of operation, discounts for special event admission, discounts in the gift shop and discounts on ground rentals. Each member will receive a membership card and a copy of the bi-monthly newsletter via mail or email.

Anyone wanting to become a member should send dues in payment to Fort Defiance, P. O. Box 686, Lenoir, NC 28645.

Contact Fort Defiance at fortdefiance@gmail.com or call 828-458-1671.

-----Detach here-----

_____ Patriot/Individual	\$20-39
_____ Militia/Family	\$40-74
Family is defined as two parents and their dependent children.	
_____ Lieutenant/Supporter	\$75-99
_____ Captain/Patron	\$100-499
_____ Colonel/Sponsor	\$500-999
_____ General/Benefactor	\$1000-up

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code _____

Please Come Visit Soon!

Fort Defiance is located past the former Patterson School on Hwy 268.

Hours of Operation

April-October Thursday - Saturday 10 AM-4 PM
Sunday 1 PM - 4 PM

November-March Saturday & Sunday 10 AM - 4 PM

Admission

\$7 per Adult

\$5 for children (Ages 6 -15)

Like us on Facebook and Follow us on Instagram.

To schedule a group of 10 or more, please call for an appointment. Please join us for a "Lunch and Learn" On Saturday June 19th at 11am.



Presorted Standard
Postage & Fees Paid
Fort Defiance Inc.
Permit No. 28, 28645

Fort Defiance
P.O. Box 686
Lenoir, NC 28645