



John Polk

1739-1785

NORTH CAROLINA

Captain John Polk was born in Cumberland County, PA near the site of the present Carlisle, probably about 1739, and died probably early in 1785, as on September 9 of that year, the Assembly of North Carolina issued a Land Warrant No. 2149 "to the heirs of John Polk" for 1000 acres of land within the limits of the land reserved by law for the officers and soldiers of the Continental Line of this state." He married on October 2, 1758 to Eleanor Shelby, daughter of General Evan Shelby.

John Polk went with his parents to Mecklenburg County, N.C. about 1750, and in a deed of 1763, on file at Charlotte, he is styled a "planter". His wife, "Ellenor" joined with him in signing a deed in the same county in 1764. His name is given as the author of a petition in 1765 to the Governor and Council, complaining, with his neighbors, of the acts of the chief agent of the large Selwyn grant, on which they lived. On June 7, 1766 he appears as a member of the Clear Creek Company of militia, commanded by Captain Adam Alexander, in which his older brother, Charles, was a Lieutenant. By acts of the General Assembly of Province in 1766, 1771, and 1773, he was made a member of commissions charged with laying out roads to connect the wester counties with Wilmington and Brunswick counties. He was an officer in Colonel Francis Locke's regiment, which was raised to meet the Loyalists then gathering, and which fought a few days later at the Battle of Ramseur's Mills. At various times he served as captain in the militia of that region, when it was called out by the Committee of Safety.

An affidavit concerning the service of Captain Charles Polk on file in the Pension Office in Washington contains a declaration that John Polk was appointed Indian Agent for the Catawba Indians. By the efforts of the local officers in North Carolina these Indians were kept friendly during the Revolution, but they were not wards of the Government.