

Aftermath of the Battle of Alamance ^[1]

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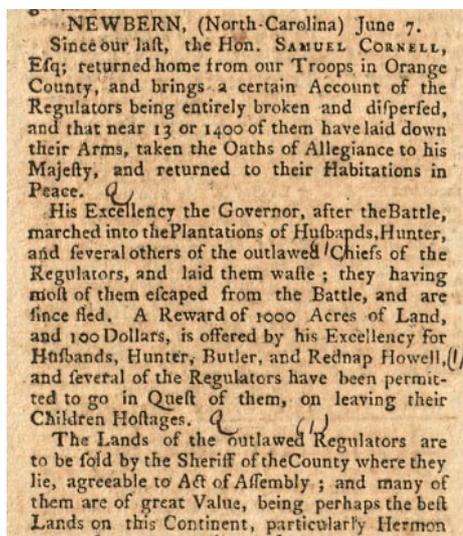
A few weeks after the Battle of Alamance in May 1771, an account of the battle and its aftermath made its way to various newspapers throughout the colonies, including as far north as the Boston Gazette. The account included included report of the casualties, which may have been exaggerated, and a call for a reward for the capture of the outlaws, Herman Husband, Rednap Howell, and William Butler. Below is a transcription of the Boston Gazette account. It includes annotations for historical commentary and definitions.

Newbern (North Carolina) June 7.

Since our last, the Hon. Samuel Cornell, Esq., returned home from our Troops in Orange County, and brings a certain Account of the Regulators being entirely broken and dispersed ^[2], and that near 13 or 1400 of them have laid down their arms, taken the Oaths of Allegiance ^[3] to his Majesty, and returned to their Habitations ^[4] in Peace.

His Excellency the Governor, after the Battle, marched into the Plantations of Husband, Hunter, and several others of the outlawed Chiefs of the Regulators, and laid them waste; they having most of them escaped from the Battle, and are since fled. A reward of 1000 Acres of Land, and 100 Dollars, is offered by his Excellency for Husband, Hunter, Butler, and Rednap Howell, and several of the Regulators have been permitted to go in Quest of them, on leaving their Children Hostages.

The Lands of the outlawed Regulators are to be sold by the Sheriff of the County where they lie, agreeable to Act of Assembly; and many of them are of great Value, being perhaps the best Lands on this Continent, particularly Herman Husbands's, who had growing on his Plantation about 50 Acres of as fine Wheat as perhaps ever grew, with Clover Meadow equal to any in the Northern Colonies; but infatuated ^[5], unhappy Man, about 400 head of horses, which were turned in on it by our Troops, in a few days left it without a Spear of Corn, Grass, or Herbage growing, and without a House or Fence standing! A melancholy Consideration, but made necessary by the Laws of War.



This is an image of an excerpt from the original publication of the Boston-Gazette, and Country Journal, July 15, 1771 showing the account of the aftermath of the Battle of Alamance. From the Collection of the Massachusetts Historical Society. ^[6]

Thus has his Excellency the Governor, at the Head of a handful of Troops, compared to the Numbers of the Regulators, thro' the immediate Hand of Divine Providence ^[7], broke this dangerous and daring Conspiracy ^[8], that every day increased, and threatened to overwhelm this once flourishing Province in one Scene of horrid Confusion and lawless Fury! For who but the Almighty Ruler of Heaven and Earth could guide the Balls from the Rifles of the Regulators to fly over the Heads of our Troops in the Day of Battle, as they did by ten Thousands; which otherwise, as they were at least five Times the Number of our Troops, must have cut them off by Hundreds, and left the Field a dismal Scene of Blood and Carnage ^[9].

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People:

- [Herman Husband](#) ^[22]
- [Rednap Howell](#) ^[23]
- [William Butler](#) ^[24]
- [Gov. William Tryon](#) ^[25]

Places:



^[26] [A white marble slab in Hillsborough, N.C.](#) ^[26] marks the spot where six Regulators were hanged on June 19, 1771, after their defeat at the Battle of Alamance.

Primary Sources:

NORTH-CAROLINA GAZETTE.

With the latest Advices, Foreign and Domestick.

SEMPER PRO LIBERTATE, ET BONO PUBLICO.

SOUTH-CAROLINA.
In **PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,**
Charlestown, Wednesday, June 21, 1775.

ORDERED, That the Hon. William-Henry Drayton, the Hon. Capt. Bernard Elliot, Col. Charles Pinckney, Col. James Parsons, Col. Isaac Motte, Col. Stephen Bull, Col. William Moultrie, Major Owen Roberts, Capt. Thomas Savage, Capt. John Huger, Miles Brewton, Thomas Ferguson, and Gabriel Capers, Esquires, be a Deputation to present to his Excellency the Governor the Address of this Congress.

SOUTH CAROLINA.
To his Excellency the Right Honourable Lord WILLIAM CAMPBELL, Governor, and Commander in Chief in and over the Province aforesaid.
The humble ADDRESS and DECLARATION of the PROVINCIAL CONGRESS.

May it please your Excellency,
WE, his Majesty's loyal Subjects, the Representatives of the People of this Colony, in Congress assembled, beg Leave to disclose to your Excellency the true Causes of our Proceedings; not only that upon your Arrival among us, you may

Disputes which at present unhappily subsist between Great-Britain and the American Colonies.

It is impossible, during the short Interval since my Arrival, that I should have acquired such a Knowledge of the State of the Province, as to be at present able to make any Representation thereupon to his Majesty, but you may be assured no Representations shall ever be made by me, but what shall be strictly consistent with Truth, and with an earnest Endeavour to promote the real Happiness and Prosperity of the Province.

June 21, 1775. WILLIAM CAMPBELL.
Published by Order of the Congress,
PETER TIMOTHY, Secretary.
In **PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,**
Charlestown, June 12, 1775.

THE Provincial Congress having received an Intimation, that certain Persons have already bought up, and others are now buying up Indian Corn, with Design to take Advantage of the Times, have

Resolved, That such engrossing is intolerable, and ought not to be suffered in this Time of Scarcity.

Resolved also, That such Persons as may have bought up Indian Corn, ought not to sell it at an advanced Price, and that proper Information ought immediately to be laid before the Congress or General Committee.

Ordered, That the above Resolutions be forthwith printed and made public.

PETER TIMOTHY, Secretary.
In **PROVINCIAL CONGRESS,**
Charlestown, Thursday, June 22, 1775.

RESOLVED, That all Absentees holding Estates in this Colony, except the Sick, those above Sixty, and those under Twenty-one Years of Age, ought forthwith to return to this Colony.

Resolved, That Persons holding Estates in this Colony, ought to withdraw from his Service, without giving good and sufficient Reasons for so doing to this Congress, or, during its recess, to the General Committee.

Ordered, That the two foregoing Resolutions, be printed and made public.

PETER TIMOTHY, Secretary.
In the **COUNCIL of SAFETY,**
Charlestown, June 23, 1775.

PERSONS willing to supply the two Regiments of Foot in the Service of this Colony with Provisions at three Shillings a Man per Day, are desired to give in their Proposals of Quantities and Quality, sealed up, on or before the 26th Instant, before eleven o'clock in the Morning, to

PETER TIMOTHY, Secretary.

[27]

Primary Source Colonial Newspaper Collections

- [The Boston Gazette](#) [28]
- [The Virginia Gazette](#) [29]
- [Colonial N.C. Newspapers](#) [27]

3 January 2018

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- [28] <http://www.masshist.org/dorr/browse-nc/title/BGCJ>
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