Primary Source: Aftermath of the Battle of Alamance

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, and that near 13 or 1400 of them have laid down their arms, taken the Oaths of Allegiance to his Majesty, and returned to their Habitations 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 Husband'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, 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.

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, broke this dangerous and daring Conspiracy, 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.

User Tags:
- history
- newspapers
- North Carolina
- North Carolina History
- Page
- Regulators
- Students
- Teachers
- William Tryon

From:
LEARN NC North Carolina History: A Digital Textbook

Copyright Date:
2009

People:
- Herman Husband
- Rednap Howell
- William Butler
- Gov. William Tryon

Places:
A white marble slab in Hillsborough, N.C., marks the spot where six Regulators were hanged on June 19, 1771, after their defeat at the Battle of Alamance.

Related Topics:
- The Regulator Movement for K-8 Students

Primary Sources:

**The North Carolina Gazette**

**Published by Order of the Congress,**

**Peter Timothy, Secretary.**

**In Provincial Congress,** Charleston, June 21, 1775.

*The Provincial Congress having received an Intimation, that certain Persons have already bought up a good Part of the Indian Corn, with Design to take Advantage of the Times,*

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

*Peter Timothy, Secretary.*

In Provincial Congress, Charleston, June 22, 1775.

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

*Peter Timothy, Secretary.*

In Provincial Congress, Charleston, July 14, 1775.

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

*Peter Timothy, Secretary.*

*Semper pro Libertate, et Bono Publico.*
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.

- The Boston Gazette
- The Virginia Gazette
- Colonial N.C. Newspapers
- Primary Sources for the Regulator Movement
- Regulator Movement Digital Collection, State Archives of North Carolina

3 January 2018

Source URL: https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-aftermath

Links