

Revolutionary War Veteran and Patriot Soldier

## **Jacob Gaster**

1765-1855

Jacob Gaster was born April 16, 1765, in the Upper Little River-Gaster's Creek section of Cumberland County that became part of Moore County in 1764 and of Lee in 1907. He was the son of Henry Gaster, Jr., of Holland, and Wilmoth Gaster and had a sister, Mary, and a brother, Henry, Jr.

Prior to 1781, a militia company of volunteers was formed in the area. The commander was Mary's husband, Captain Daniel Buie, and Jacob joined about March 1, 1781. They set out to unite with General Greene and the American Army, in Chatham County, but, upon learning that the British were at Ramsay's Mills on Deep River, decided, for safety's sake, to split up and meet (March 28) at Henry Gaster's, where they were surprised by British scouts. One member was killed, with another severely wounded and five, including Buie and Jacob Gaster, captured. They were marched to Wilmington and placed in a stockade for about three weeks before being moved onto a British prison ship, where Buie died. When exchanges were made in July, Jacob returned home and, about January, 1782, joined the militia company of his brother, Henry, Jr., and served for three months.

Jacob married Nancy Dye (Die, Dey), twenty-one years younger, about 1800. Their known children are David, Henry, John, Jacob, Barbara, and William. Except for Jacob's namesake, they prospered and produced many descendants. Two great-granddaughters still live in Lee County.

Possibly from a teacher hired by his father, who became a man of substance, Jacob received some education. From 1796-1815, he served nine terms in the North Carolina General Assembly: six in the House and three in the Senate. He was also a member of the committee that purchased a central site for the county seat of Moore and was instrumental in the formation of that county's first academy, Solemn Grove. He died in 1855 at age ninety.