

A
T633
4
Frankfort June 25th 1874.

Dear Sir

The President of the United States
has been pleased to appoint me one of the
Commissioners to treat with the North Western
Indians

From the view which I am able to take
of the constitution, I believe that the
acceptance of the mission by me, would not
be compatible with the duties of the station
which I now hold - Col Hardin is absent,
at one of his courts and there is no sound
legal character in town with whom I can
consult on this occasion - will you my God be
so obliging as to cast your eye over the 6th
section of the 3rd article of ~~the constitution~~, as
~~turned down~~, and the 7th sect of the 6th
article of the constitution, as turned down,
and give me your opinion thereon in
relation to my situation - The Lieutenant
Governor will certainly have to act in my absence
& it is doubtful (if he questioned my right
to do so) whether I could resume the functions
of the Gov^t upon my return - There are not
wanting men enough amongst us ready to
lay hold of any pretext to distract and
confuse the public mind, and although
I care little about the office I would be
pleased to be rid of it on honorable

Terms. I would not do an act that would
create any disturbance in the country -

My son will hand you the Constitution
and dispatches that have been received from
the war department, and will wait for
your answer, upon you, at any hour you
may direct him - I must by the mail
of tomorrow apprise the Secy of War of
my determination.

Very

Respectfully

Your Ob servant

The Honble
Judge Todd.

Isaac Shelby.

Dr Sir

St. Frankfort June 25th 1874

Your Excellency's favour of this morning is now before me, and I have considered the question which you politely submitted to me, the result is a decided opinion that the acceptance of the appointment will under the constitution of this State, vacate the office of Governor of this Commonwealth.

The sixth section of the 3^d art declares "no member of Congress or person holding any office under the U.S. shall be eligible to the office of Governor."

This section is declaratory as to the eligibility only, & does not in its letter embrace the case, in its spirit and intention it has a strong bearing on it; but the 17th sect of the 6th art, removes every doubt.

The commission issued by the President expresses on its face, that the office of Com^r is an office of trust and negatives an idea that it is a mere appointment. It is an office requiring a commission and trust. While you are exercising the functions of Com^r, you cannot hold the office of Governor of Ky. Where offices are incompatible, a person holding one, accepts of the other, the first office is vacated & being once vacated cannot be resumed without a reappointment. Having given an opinion on the point requested, I hope you will pardon me in suggesting, that I really believe that your acceptance of the office in contemplation with the consequences attendant thereon, would be greatly & generally deplored - that you will render your country more essential services in the

office which you now fill, than you can in
the one offered - Your enemies will rejoice while your
personal and particular friends will regret your
absence, & no one more so than

I am, Sir, Your friend

Thomas Todd

Gen. Helder

Judge Todd

August 29th 1819

Dear Sir.

Your favour of the 15th came to hand last night.

I regret that I did not know your intentions concerning the Contract sooner. Mr. N. Hart came to my house late on Saturday night directly from Col.^o Johnson. I was extremely anxious to interest me in obtaining the Contract. Although I did not want any thing to do with it my self nor could I on any account perform any of the duties of it. I consented to join him in furnishing 1,000 barrels of beef and as much pork. Thus I the more readily entered into on the supposition that some of my sons would gladly accept, take my place & fulfill the engagement. But in case none of them inclined to under take Mr. Hart proposed to take the whole upon him self under this impression I readily signed proposals to the Navy board with Doctor McDowell & Mr. Hart to supply 1,000 barrels of beef at \$22 & as much pork at \$20 per barrel and I wrote to the President of the U.S. to lend us his aid to obtain the Contract. which had previously promised me he would do in the event of any of my Connection applying for it. I gave Col.^o Johnson a discretion to face ~~in the barrel of each~~ two dollars in the barrel of each if he could not obtain it on the terms as proposed. The Col.^o was to have started to the City on Monday last. — if the Contract is obtained on any terms you shall have my heart of it. and I have no doubt but the

Doctor will readily give ^{up} his part to you. he entered into the proposition from the same motives that I did to get the contract into some branch of the family — upon more consideration of the trouble & risk attending the business I regretted that we had given Col. Johnson any power to reduce the price first proposed. I wrote to Mr. Hart on Monday last to advise Col. Johnson not to use the discretion we had given him and for fear that Mr. Hart might not get my letter or might fail I wrote directly to the Col. at the City & recalled the power given him assuring him that I would take no part in the business unless the contract could be obtained on the terms first proposed — but to a man who wants money he might take the contract at a less price for the use of it — as it would be better to make a sacrifice of time than of property to raise it. — If you have thoughts of taking the contract to any greater extent than what I have stated you had better see Mr. N. Hart immediately I write on to Col. Johnson to obtain it to a greater extent. I have no doubt ^{Mr. Hart} ~~he~~ would be willing to enlarge it at least 1000 barrels, and I see no objections he can have to this arrangement when your father is accountable to the Govt for your part. You could do more in Kenyon with him being immediately on the spot — than any other branch of my family and as to your own interest it would give you the use of a handsome sum until you can sell property to raise it — You had better see Mr. Hart immediately & come to an understanding with him. I will procure the Doctors interest to you — If I was to go to Madison — I could not possibly go to Shelby

Court: my intention was to go down at least one whole week before the Court; go to the house of each of those old men, whose depositions I want, and prepare their minds on the points that I want to establish - indeed to reduce to writing what they will say.

I like the idea of your interesting ~~things~~ in the land it will see require more attention than Lawyers usually pay to facts. If I fail to go to Shelby I may possibly not be able to take such a ride after the next winter - riding becomes more exhausting time every day & increases the pain which I have had some time in my breast. I want to make one effort more to ~~leave~~ Isaac that land & now then leave the result to time and chance. I hope if Hardin writes their depositions every thing will be proved that I want and that I can hazard the suit as well with him as if I was present at the trial. some of the witnesses are very old & in a great hazard to ~~fulfill~~ of their testimony till next Spring -

If you come on any time with Mr. Hart he would write me a note you could certainly contribute more to his convenience in the accomplishment of the Contract than any one else. He is intirely a practical man and could give you the best advice as to the management of the ware house where you ~~it~~ could readily spend most of your time -

The family here are all hearing of this affair -
- affectionately remembered to Letitia and the Children -
Very Respectfully Yours &c &c

Wm. C. S. Todd

Turn over

Isaac Shelby

we have just heard that Evans Waggoner is killed on the road to the
 Horse creek salt works. his Waggon & mine had gone out for two loads
 of salt his waggoner was thrown from his horse & the waggon heavy
 loaded ran over him & crushed him - he happened on himself to see about it
 JF

10

the
 the to
 letter



Colo Charles S. Todd

Frankfort
 Kentucky

225 lbs. to make
 a Barrel

\$8.00
 1.50 bl
 2.00 Freight &
 1.00 Salt
12.50.

Said Offal &
 to pay Expenses.

A
T633 Dear Sir.

Danville Oct: 15th 1819

Your favour of the 10th written just before your departure has been duly received —

I have not the smallest desire to take any part of the Contract my only object at first was to secure a sure market for the beef in my own family — and even that inducement is now gone away in a great degree. for I am informed that John Hart & my son James have set out some time since with their Cattle to Charles Town South Carolina — so that I would not now be concerned with any part of the Contract on no account — besides the crop is so light this season that I have great doubts whether any price ~~that~~ ^{that} can be had, will justify the cost of feeding cattle the next winter I believe I shall on that account decline feeding my own this season. I hope you may succeed in obtaining so much of the Contract as you want, on terms that will

be advantageous to you. but I advise you to be
cautious how you touch it. It may involve
you in extreme difficulties if you take it too low.
for although the Government is sometimes slow
in pushing her Agents, she will finally compel
a performance to the last cent.

I don't know whether N. Hart has parted with his
beef or not. if he takes part of the Contract, No man
can fulfill better. as for the Doctor, he has none
nor ought he to be concerned with the Contract in any
degree. he had better stick to his pills & as for Evan he is
provided to keep his beef an other year & I believe
would rather give his cattle away than take the
trouble to slaughter & send them to a foreign
market.

Nothing new since you left us. The
Family are all hearty. wishing you a safe
return home. I remain yours affectionately

Isaac Shelby

Let's Char. S. Todd

ENT



25

Colonel Charles S. Todd
at
Washington City

Mail

Oot 15th.

Danville.

From Gov. Isaac Shelby

Stuart
t Col. Chas. Todd.
n

The Filson Historical Society

A
7633Lincoln. June 28th 1822.

1822

July 15th. *rec*From Gov. Isaac Shelby
to Judge Thomas Todd.Reference to an error
in Johnson's history con-
cerning Gov. Shelby

Dear Sir

A few days after you left my house, letters were received from your son at Washington, detailing his prospects and news. He will sail immediately after his return from Philadelphia in the "Peacock," repairing at that place for the voyage to sail by the first of July. I suppose he has written you also fully on that subject.

He has enclosed me two sheets of Extracts from the 2nd Vol. of "Johnson's life of Green," from pages 210 and 258. These extracts abound with absurd mistakes & palpable errors as they relate to myself, and the men I commanded.

I have by diligent search found General Green's letter to me, calling for all the force that I could bring to his aid immediately. It is dated on the 16th of September 1781—came round through Virginia—was picked up ^{in Henry County} ~~at~~ by General Martin and brought on at his leisure. I did not receive it before the evening of the 30th September or 1st October. I made great exertions, however and rendezvoused the men on the 10 of October. I was obliged to delay

a day or two for ~~some~~^{many} of the men to come in, who had not got more than 24 hours notice; but were willing to go as the call was for a special purpose, to wit, to intercept Lord Cornwallis, who General Green informed me "was then blockaded in the Chesapeake bay, and who it was suspected would endeavour to make good his retreat through North Carolina to Charleston. If we can intercept his Lordship it will put an end to the war in the Southern States."

I was far advanced on my march when I received information of his surrender in Virginia, and hesitated whether to proceed. But as the men seemed willing to serve out a tour of duty, which was sixty days, I proceeded on more leisurely to Green; who seemed to regret that the ^{had traveled so far and then} men were ~~not~~ wanted, and observed to me, that such a body of horse could not remain in the vicinity of his camp on account of the scarcity of forage, and requested me to serve out the tour with Marion; which I consented to with some reluctance, as he was near an 100 miles further on.

When I applied to General Marion for leave of absence to go to the assembly of North Carolina, of which I was a member, and ^{where} a question was to be decided respecting some back lands in which my all was depending; he ~~readily~~ consented "as the enemy had then it was believed retreated near to the gates of Charleston;" from a different cause than that stated by Johnson in his history. Marion wrote a letter to Genl. Green by myself, which I had reasons to believe was highly approbatory of my conduct and that of the men I commanded, who had

only nine or ten days to stay, to complete the tour of duty, at the time of my departure. Green had moved his camp 18 miles to the left of my route, but I had an opportunity of sending Manions letter to him directly, by a person belonging to the Army.

The object of this letter is to request of you, my good Sir, that you will lend me Johnsons History if it may have come to hand before my son Alfred calls upon you, which will be in eight or ten days from the Exhibition in Lexington, on the 10th of July. I will thank you too for Judge Johnsons address; for I have not determined whether I will not address him personally before I publish my remarks on that part of his history.

I have the honor to be with much esteem,

Your friend, and most obt. Humbl. servant
Isaac Shelby.

The Hon^{ble} Judge Todd }

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Your friend, and most obt. Hum^l. servant
Isaac Shelby.

The Hon^l. Judge Todd }

Ans. July 15th 1822

Paid 10

The Honble. Judge Todd

Frankfort
Kentucky

1822

Nov 4th.

Danville.

From Gov. Isao Shelby to
Judge Thomas Todd.

Concerning a transfer
of Bank Stock to Judge
Thomas Todd.

The Filson Historical Society

A
163
4
Danville 4th November 1822.

My Dear Sir

I herewith enclose you a power of attorney to John T. Pendleton Esquire, to transfer to you forty shares of the Bank stock which you conveyed to me some time ago. I have not designated the numbers, but you can take either the first, or the last half, as it was transferred.

I think the house and lots ought to be conveyed to Letitia alone, that they may hereafter, whenever they find themselves in a situation, be enabled to dispose of the house &c. to aid in buying a tract of land to settle upon.

I wish you not to shew the papers I last gave you, to any but my real friends.

W. C. P. has many relations, at Frankfort and about there, who might make an improper use of the ~~information~~ if they knew what they contained.

I remain very respectfully
Your friend &c. &c.

Wm. Kelby.

Hon^{ble} Thomas Todd

turn over

A
1822
4
Danville 4th November 1822.

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I remain very respectfully
your friend &c. &c.

turn over

4021
Hon^{ble} Thomas Todd

L. A. Shelby

P.S. I wish you ~~would~~ destroy my letter of the
28th of June last, as I find that I have con-
-founded in that letter, ^{the date of} one event with that
of another case, which I did not intend to
refer to. I L.



The Hon^{ble}

Thomas Todd

Frankfort
Ky.

Travellers Rest. 1st July 1825.

My Dear Sir.

Your favour of the 27th ult^o I received on yesterday, and was surprised to hear of the degree of excitement which you speak of existing in the country - You mention the different points on which public sentiment is divided, and are pleased to solicit a declaration of my opinions - You say also, that the dominant party are using my name, as one of them.

I have, Sir, sought no opportunity to declare my sentiments on these subjects, (unwilling at my advanced age to be set forth as the champion of a party,) nor have I ever been averse to giving them when occasions have made it necessary; but no one acquainted with the tenor of my public life, could reasonably suppose, that I would give my assent to measures so entirely novel & unprecedented.

I am clearly of opinion, that the act of the last Legislature reorganizing the court of appeals is unconstitutional. The Judicial, as well as the Legislative and Executive departments, is established by the constitution - they are placed upon an equal footing, and are entirely independent of each other, when acting within the limits prescribed to them - The Judiciary are bound by their oath to decide according to the constitution and the laws made in conformity to it, and must declare any act of the Legislature that

~~to be unconstitutional~~
is brought before them, when they clearly believe that it is so.

If a Majority of the Legislature is supreme, our Bill of rights is but a dead letter; for what discordant opinions may not at times predominate in our country? But it must be admitted by all, that the constitution is the paramount law of the land, positively defining certain principles which must not be broken through — any thing else is at variance with the principles of our Revolution. The tyranny of a Parliament on whose authority there was no check, and the abject servility of a Judiciary who held their offices at the pleasure of the King, were two of the causes, which most powerfully impeded us in the prosecution of our revolution. In establishing a constitution for our own government, each of those evils were cautiously guarded against, ^{that part of it is so plain that} and, in my opinion, no man of unbiased mind can misinterpret it.

I have never examined this subject further than to satisfy my own mind, and I have given you, Sir, my opinions in as few words as possible.

With assurances of much respect I am

Y^r friend

Isaac Shelby

Judge Todd. {

P.S. You are at liberty to use this letter as you think proper.
J. Shelly

Transmitted Post 1st July 1825

And may be sent to the Editor of the

10

The Double

Thomas Todd.

Frankfort

Kentucky



10

The Hon'ble

Thomas Todd.

Frankfort
Kent'y

Received by Mr. Todd at Frankfort Ky on July 10th 1865

A
T633

1812

August 27

John Sevier

to
Gov. Shelby.

Copy made by Col. Chas
S. Todd Aug 15th 1859.

1812.

Aug 27th.

Marble Springs.

From John Sevier to
Gov. Isaac Shelby.

Reference to the battle
of King's Mountain.

Marble Springs 27 August 1862.

My Dear Sir

4031
I have been duly honored with your two letters of the 12th & 24th instant - I am much gratified in hearing of your successful election, and beg leave to congratulate you on the occasion.

I have no doubt you have been much calumniated, and that old Tories & their descendants would be the principal actors there can be no doubt - as their malice, hatred, & envy, will ever be alive against all those who had any hand in suppressing & overcoming that never to be forgotten Torified and disaffected Set, who so much degraded the character of Americans - I am no little astonished at their insolence, that they should have the affront to say you was not in the battle of Frings Mountain, or that you was only a Lieutenant or Subaltern. It is well known you was in the heat of that action!

I frequently see you animating your men to victory during the engagement, and in every particular conducting in that Gallant & brave manner that was truly characteristic of the officer & soldier - At the surrender you was the first field officer I spoke to, or that I recollect to have seen near the place where the British Commander, Fergison fell. I have no doubt you must recollect, that Col. Campbell was some considerable distance from that place at that time, and that you and myself ~~spoke~~ - I spoke on that subject that same evening - I frequently recollect on my seeing

you towards the close of the action, that I observed
your hair on one side of your head, I believe on the
left, was very much burnt off, and that I swore
by God they had burnt off your hair—

In respect to your command, it is well known
by some hundred in the State of Tennessee that
you was a ~~Sixteenth~~ Colonel, as I also was myself
and that we was the only persons set on foot the
expedition, and had considerable trouble to get
Col. Campbell with his Virginia troops to join us.

As to the plan of attacking the enemy—yourself
was the only person that first named the mode
to me—and the same was acceded to unanimously.
No doubt you recollect we agreed on the manner of attack im-
mediately after Furgison's spies were taken, while we was
a little in the front of our army & as we were returning
back to see Campbell & the other officers.—I will cheer-
fully join you in the memorial to the Carolina Legislature
it is a debt of honor due to us, and I make no doubt
that Body will order the Swords to be provided—

As having acci-
-dently and opportunity
by the Rev. Mr. Nelson
have written you
a letter in much
haste

I have the honor to be dear Sir,
Your Excellency's friend
And very Humble Servt
John Sevier

His Excellency Governor Shelby

A True Copy from the Original
which I found recently among the
papers of the late Gov. Shelby—
15th Aug. 1857. C. S. Todd.

Draper A (57576)

The Filson Historical Society

A
7633
34TH CONGRESS,
1ST SESSION.

✓
1856
Aug. 15
S. 458.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

AUGUST 15, 1856.

Mr. REID, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, submitted a report, (No. 289,) accompanied by the following bill ; which was read and passed to a second reading.

A BILL

Providing payment for the revolutionary services of Colonel Isaac Shelby.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Secretary of the Treasury cause to be paid to Thomas
4 Shelby, (son of Governor Shelby,) for the use and behoof of
5 the heirs-at-law, lineally descended, of Colonel Isaac Shelby,
6 in consideration of his services and sacrifices during the revo-
7 lutionary war, the sum of four thousand five hundred dollars,
8 out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

THE FILSON CLUB
LOUISVILLE, KY.

40 Z.1

A BILL

Providing payment for the revolutionary services of Colonel Isaac Shelby.

1856—August 15.—Read and passed to a second reading.

F.C. WSS

A
.T 633

Much of this "Sketch
of the Life of Isaac
Shelby," by Charles S.
Todd, is embodied
in "Memoir of Governor
Shelby," the last
chapter (157-174) of
"Memoir of Col. Charles
S. Todd," by G. H.
Griffin, published
in 1873.

Sketch of the Life of
Gov. Isaac Shelby
Written by
Col. Charles S. Todd

Sketch of the life of Isaac Shelby.

General Evan Shelby, the father of the late Gov. Shelby, emigrated from Wales when a small lad with his Father and settled in the then Province of Maryland, near the North Mountain, about a Century ago. He possessed a strong mind and ^{an} iron Constitution of body with great perseverance and unshaken courage. His skill as a Hunter and Woodman induced his appointment as Captain of a Company of Rangers in the French & Indian War which commenced in 1754. during which year he made several successful expeditions into the Alleghany Mountains — He was afterwards appointed a Captain in the Provincial Army destined for the reduction of Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburg. He fought in many severe battles in what is called Braddock's War — He laid out the old Pennsylvania Road across the Alleghany Mountain and led the advance of the Army under Gen^l Forbes which took possession of Fort Duquesne in 1758. His gallantry was particularly noticed in the Battle fought at Lozaj Stanning, near Bedford Pa. — In 1772 he removed to the Western Waters and raised a Company in 1774. ^{in the Campaign} under Lewis & Dunmore against the Indians on the Scioto River. He was in the sanguinary battle of 10 Oct 1774 at the Mouth of the Kenkawa and near the close of the action was the Commanding officer, Cols Ch^s Lewis, Fleming & Freed being killed or disabled. The result gave peace to the Frontier at the critical period of the Colonies ^{emerging} into the eventful Contest of the Revolution and deterred the Indians from uniting with the British until 1776. — He was appointed in 1776 by Gov. Henry of Virg. a Major in the Army commanded by Col Christian ~~hannaymen~~ —

against the Cherokees. which destroyed their Towns & Crops. - In 1777. he was appointed Colonel of Sundry Garrisons posted on the Frontier of Virg^a and a Commissioner with Col: Preston & Christian to hold a Treaty with their Tribe at the Long Island of Nolichucky. In 1779. he led a strong Expedition against the Chickamauga Indians on the Tennessee River which resulted in the destruction of their Towns and provisions and occurring at the precise period when Gen. Geo R. Clarke captured Gov. Hamblin at Vincennes ^{afforded} ^{you} a temporary peace to Tennessee & Kentucky which ^{secured} ^{and the opening of land office} affording time for the introduction of ^{population} ~~settlers~~ ^{fortified} these new Countries against all subsequent attempts to disturb them gave a permanence to the Settlements of Ky & Cumberland that never could be broken up by British Influence aided by Savag^e intrigue. By the extension of the Boundary line between Virg^a & N.C. in 1779. he was included in the latter State and ^{was} appointed by the Gov. a Brig Gen. the first officer of that Grade on the W. Waters. ^{Regen there}

Isaac Shelby. the subject of this Memoir, was born on the 11th day of December. 1750. near the North Mountain in the Province of Maryland where his father & Grandfather settled after their arrival in America from Wales. - In that early Settlement of the Country and from the Indian Wars with which it was annoyed during the period of his Youth - he obtained only the elements of a plain English Education and like his father, born with a strong Constitution, capable of bearing great privations & fatigue, he was brought up to the use of arms & the pursuit of game -

at the age of 21. he took up his residence in Western Virg. beyond
the Alleghany Mountains and was engaged in the business of feeding
and attending to large herds of Cattle in the extensive National Range
which distinguished that section of County. He was a Lieut.
in the Company of his Father in the Memorable battle fought 10. Oct
1774 at the Mouth of Kenhawa already mentioned and at the close
of that Campaign was appointed by Lord Dunmore to be second
in Command of a Garrison ordered to be erected on the ground where
the battle was fought. This was, probably, the most severely contested
Conflict ever maintained with the N.W. Indians. The action continued
from sunrise to Sunset and the ground for a half mile along the
river bank was alternately & respectively occupied by each of the
parties in the course of the day. — ^{so sanguinary was the contest that sometimes} The Blood and the brains of
was found on each side of the trees behind which the parties
were posted. The Indians under the celebrated Chief Cornstalk
abandoned the ground under cover of the night — of the rebel authors
In this Garrison Lt. Shelly continued until it was disbanded by
in July 1775 ^{by order of Lord Dunmore who was apprehensive it might be held for the benefit} when he came to Kentucky and engaged in was employed as
a Surveyor under Henderson & Co. who styled themselves Proprietors of
the County and who had established a regular Land Office under
their purchase of the from the Cherokees which they called the colonies
Transylvania, in ^{thence} America.
He resided in the then wilds of Ky. for near 12 M^{ts} when from
continued exposure to the inclemency of the weather and being
without bread or salt his health was impaired and he returned
home. In July 1776 during his absence from home he was
appointed Captain of a Minute Company by the Committee of Safety
of Virginia — In the year 1777. he was appointed by Gov. Henry
officer, a Commissary of Supplies for an extensive body of
militia posted at different Garrisons to guard the frontier
men —

Settlements and for a Treaty to be held at the Long Island of
Holsteer River with the Cherokee Tribe of Indians. These supplies
could not possibly have been obtained nearer than Staunton
Virginia a distance of 300. Miles - but by the most indefatigable
perseverance (one of the most conspicuous traits in his character,
he accomplished it to the satisfaction of his Country -

In 1778. he was engaged in the Commissary Dept. to providing
Supplies for the Continental Army and ^{for} an expedition by the way
of Pittsburgh against the N. W. Indians. In the early part of
1779. he was appointed by Gov. Henry of Virginia to furnish
Supplies for the Campaign against the Chickamauga Indians
which he effected upon his own individual Credit. In
the Spring of that year he was elected a Member of the Virginia
Legislature from Washington County and in the fall of that year
Commissary a Major by Gov. Jefferson of Virginia in the
escort of Guards to the Commissioners for extending the
boundary line between that State and the State of N. C.

By the extension of that line, his residence was found to be
within the limits of the latter State and shortly afterwards he
was appointed by Gov. Caswell, a Colonel of the new County
of Sullivan established in consequence of the additional
Territory acquired by the running of that line - In the Summer
of 1780. Colonel Shelby was in Kentucky locating and securing
those lands which he had five years previously to that period
marked out & improved for himself; when the intelligence of the
Surrender of Charleston and the loss of the Army reached that
County. He returned home in July of that year,
determined to enter the Service of his Country & remain in it
until her Independence ~~was~~ should be secured. He could

not remain a cool spectator of a contest in which the dearest rights and interests of his County were involved -

On his arrival in Sullivan he found a requisition from General Charles McDowell, requesting him to furnish all the aid in his power to check the enemy who had overrun the two Southern States and were on the border of N.C. - Col Shelby assembled the Militia of his County, called upon them to volunteer their services for a short time on that interesting occasion and marched in a very few days with 300 mounted riflemen across the Allegheny Mountains -

See note 1. Shortly after this affair. ~~He~~ In a short time after his arrival at McDowell's Camp near the Cherokee ford of Broad River, ^{See note 1. Shortly after this affair.} Col Shelby and ~~Col~~ ^{Col} Eliza Clarke, a Refugee officer from Georgia, were detached with 600 mounted men to watch the movements of the enemy and if possible, cut up their foraging parties - Ferguson, who commanded the enemy about 2500 strong, composed of British and Tories, with a small squadron of British horse, was an officer of great enterprise and although only a Major in the British line, was a Brigadier General in the Royal Militia establishment made by the enemy after he had overrun S.C. and was esteemed the most distinguished partisan officer in the B. Army. He made several attempts to surprise Col Shelby but his designs were baffled -

On the 1st of August, however, his advance about 6 or 700 strong, came up with the American Commander at a place he had chosen for battle, called "Cedar Spring" where a sharp conflict ensued of half an hour, when Ferguson approached with his whole force - The Americans then retreated, carrying off the field fifty prisoners, ^{including 2 officers -} mostly British - The enemy made great efforts for 5 miles to regain the prisoners - but the American Commander by forming frequently on the most advantageous ground to give battle, so retarded the pursuit, that the prisoners were placed beyond their reach. The American loss was 10 or 12 killed and wounded. It was in the severest part of this action that Col Shelby's attention was arrested by the heroic conduct of Col Clarke. He ^{with astonishment & admiration} mentioned that he ceased in the midst of the battle, to look at Clarke fighting -

General McDowell having received information that a party of 5 or 600 Tories ^{were} was encamped at Masgroves Mill on the South side of the ^{Clarke} ~~Cherokee~~ ^{Cherokee} about 40 miles distant, he again detached Colonel Shelby ~~Some~~ ^{Some} men -

and Williams of S.C., with about 700. horsemen to surprise & disperse them -
Major Ferguson with his whole force occupied a position immediately in the
route. The American Commanders took up their line of march from Smith's
ford of Broad River just before sundown on the evening of the 18th of Aug.
1780; marched through the woods until dark and then pursued a road
leaving Ferguson's Camp about 3 miles to the left. They rode very hard
all night, frequently in a gallop, and just at the dawn of day, about half
a mile from the enemy's Camp, met a strong patrol party. A short skirmish
ensued and several of them were killed - At that juncture, a Countryman
living just at hand, came up and informed that the Enemy had been reinforced
the evening before with 600 Regular Troops (the Queen's American Regiment
from New York) under Colonel Innes destined to reinforce Ferguson's army.
The circumstances attending this information were so minute, that no
doubt was entertained of its truth - To march on and attack the enemy then
seemed to be improper; to attempt an escape was impossible, fatigued and
exhausted as were the Americans & their horses - They instantly determined
to form a breastwork of old logs and brush and make the best defence in
their power - Capt. Inman was sent on with 25 men to meet the enemy
and skirmish with them as soon as they crossed the Enoree River - The
sound of their drums and bugle horns soon announced their movements -
Captain Inman was ordered to fire upon them and retreat according to
his own discretion - This stratagem (which was the suggestion of the
Captain himself) drew the enemy out in disorder, supposing they had
^{forced} ~~driven~~ the whole party; and when they came up within 70 yards
a most destructive fire commenced from the American riflemen who
were concealed behind the breastwork of logs.

It was an hour before the enemy could force the riflemen from
their slender breastwork; and just as they began to give way in some
parts, Col Innes was wounded and all the British officers except a
subaltern being previously either killed or wounded, and Capt Hawsey
a considerable leader amongst the Tories being shot down, the whole
of the enemy's line commenced a retreat - The Americans pursued
them closely and beat them across the river. - In this pursuit Capt
Inman was killed, bravely fighting the enemy hand to hand.

Colonel Shelly commanded the right wing. Col Clark the left and Col Williams the centre. — According to McCall's History of Georgia, the only work in which this battle is noticed, the British loss is stated to be 63 Killed and 160 Wounded and Taken. The American loss to be 4 Killed and 9 Wounded — Among the former Capt Inman & among the latter Col Clarke & Capt Le Clarke.

The Americans returned to their horses and mounted with a determination to be ^{before night} in "96," at that time a weak British post, ~~before night~~ distant only 30 miles. At that moment an express from General McDowell came up in great haste with a short letter in his hand from Gov. Caswell dated on the Battle ground, apprising McDowell of the defeat of the American grand army under Gen. Gates on the 16th near Cambridge, advising him to get out of the way. as the enemy would, no doubt, endeavour to improve their victory to the greatest advantage by destroying all the small Corps of the American Armies.

It was a fortunate circumstance that Col. Shelly knew Gov. Caswell's hand writing and what reliance to be placed upon it; but it was a difficult task to avoid the enemy in his rear, his troops and their horses ^{being} fatigued and encumbered with a large number of British prisoners. These prisoners ^{however} were immediately distributed amongst the Companies so as to make one to every three men who carried them alternately on horseback directly toward the Mountains. The Americans continued their march all that day ^{& the night following & the next day} until late in the evening, without ever stopping halting to refresh. — This long and rapid march saved them; for they were pursued until late in the afternoon of the second day after the action by a strong detachment from Ferguson's

Army. Col Shelly after seeing the party and prisoners out of danger, retreated over to the Western Waters with his followers and left the prisoners in charge of Col^s Clarke & Williams to convey them to some point of security in Virg^a. for at that moment there was not the appearance of a Corps of Americans south of ^{that State} Virginia. — The panic which followed the defeat of Gates & of Sumpter, induced the Corps of McDowell's army to disperse — some to the West & some to the North.

The brilliancy of this affair was obscured, as indeed were all minor incidents ^{of the previous war} by the deep gloom which overspread the public mind after the disastrous defeat of Gen. Gates. An impartial posterity will not however fail to award the just meed of praise to the gallant actors in scenes which though not attended with effects immediately beneficial; Ferguson was so solicitous to recapture the prisoners and to check these daring adventures of the Mountaineers that he made a strenuous effort with his main body to intercept them - but failing of his object, he took post at a place called Gilbert Town from whence he sent the most threatening messages by paroled prisoners to the officers west of the Mountains, proclaiming devastation to their County if they did not cease their opposition to the British Government.

This was the most disastrous and critical period of the Revolutionary War to the South - no one could foresee from whence a force could be raised to check the enemy in their progress to subjugate this portion of the Continent. Cornwallis with the main army was posted at Charlotte Town in N.C. & Ferguson with 3000 at Gilbert Town, while many of the best friends of the American Govt. despairing of the freedom and independence of America and joined the British standard - at this gloomy moment. Col. Shelly proposed to Col. Sevier & Campbell to raise a force from their several Counties, march hastily through the Mountains & attack and surprise Ferguson in the night - Accordingly they collected with their followers about 1000 strong on Doe Run in the Spurs of the Allegheny on the 25th day of Sept 1780. and the next day commenced their march, when it was discovered that three of Col. Sevier's men had deserted to the enemy - This disconcerted their first design - but their hardy Mountain men induced them to turn to the left, gain his front and act as events might suggest. They travelled through Mountains almost inaccessible to horsemen. As soon as they reached the level County, they met with Col. Cleveland ^{with 300 men} and Col. Williams & other Refugee officers, who had heard of Cleveland's advance, by which 300 ^{more} were added to the force of the Mountaineers.

With this force they considered themselves ^{sufficiently} strong to encounter Ferguson. ~~and upon this it was~~ but being rather a confused mass without any head, it was proposed by Col. Shelby in a Council of Officers, ^{and agreed to} that Col. Campbell of the 1st Virg. Regt. an officer of enterprise and patriotism & good sense, should be appointed to the Command. and having determined to pursue Ferguson with all practicable dispatch; they selected 2 nights before the action the best horses and rifles and at the dawn of day commenced their march with 910. expert marksmen. As Ferguson was their object, they would not be diverted from the main point by any collection of Tories in the vicinity of their route - but pursued him for the last 36 hours without alighting from their horses to refresh but once, at the Cowpens. for one hour, although the day of the action was so extremely wet that the men could only keep their guns dry by wrapping their bags, blankets and hunting shirts around the locks. which exposed their bodies to a heavy & incessant rain during the pursuit. The order of march of battle, Col. Campbell's Regt. formed the right column in the Centre. Col. Shelby's Regt. formed the left column in the Centre - The right wing was composed of Col. Sevier's Regt., Maj. Winston, & McDowell's battalions commanded by Sevier himself - The left wing was composed of Col. Cleveland's Regt. the followers of Col. Williams, Lucy. Hawthorn & Hill headed by Col. Cleveland in person - In this order the Mountaineers pursued until they found Ferguson securely encamped on "King's Mountain" which was about a half a mile long. and from whence ~~Ferguson~~ ^{he} declared the evening before, that "G. D. A. - y could not drive him." On approaching the Mountain, the two Centre Columns displayed to the right and left, formed a front and attacked the enemy, while the right & left wings were marching to surround him - In a few minutes the action became general and severe, continuing furiously for $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour, when the enemy being driven from the East to the West end of the Mountain surrendered at discretion. - Ferguson was killed with 375 of his officers and men and 730 ^{captured} ~~taken prisoners~~. The Americans had 60 killed and wounded. of the former Col. Williams.

This glorious achievement occurred at the most gloomy period of the Revolution and was the first link in the great chain of events the veneration of his countrymen -

to the South which established the Independence of the U.S. - History
has heretofore though improperly ascribed the merit to the Battle
of the Cowpens in Jan'y 1781. But it belongs justly to the victory
on "Kings Mountain"; which ^{turned the tide of war} was to the South what the victory
of Trenton under Washington & of Bennington under Stark ^{was}
did to the North - It was achieved by raw undisciplined riflemen
without any authority from the Government under which they lived
without pay, rations, ammunition or even the expectation of
reward, other than ^{that which results from} the noble ambition of securing advancing the
liberty and welfare of their beloved Country. - It completely
dispirited the Tories and so alarmed Cornwallis who then lay
only 30 miles north of Kings Mountain with the main British Army
that on receiving information of Ferguson's total defeat & of the
by the riflemen from the west under Colonel Campbell, Shelby,
Cleveland & Sevier and that they were bearing down upon him,
he ordered an immediate retreat, marched all night in the utmost
confusion and retrograded as far back as Grimshorough 80 m.
80 miles, from whence he did not attempt to advance until
reinforced 3 months after by General Leslie ^{with 2000 men} from the Chesapeake.
In the mean time the militia of N.C. assembled in considerable force at
New Providence on the border of C. under General Davidson - Gen.
Smallwood with Morgan's light Corps & the Maryland Line advanced
to the same point - General Gates with the shattered remains of his
army collected at Hillsborough also camped up ^{as well as} and the new levies
from Virg. of 1000 men under Gen. Stephens - This force enabled
Gen. Greene who assumed the command early in Dec to hold
Cornwallis in check.

The Legislature of N.C. passed a vote of thanks to Col. Shelby and several
other officers and directed each to be presented with an elegant sword
for their ^{his} patriotic conduct in the attack & defeat of the enemy on Kings
Mountain on the memorable 7. Oct. 1780. - This resolution was

carried into effect as to Col Shelly. in the summer of 1813. just at the
moment, ~~of his when~~ in the language of Secretary Monroe. "disdaining
all metaphysical distinctions tending to enfeeble the Govt." he was about
to lead his Troops far beyond the limits of this State of which he
was Gov. - ~~and to for~~ ^{the presentation at that particular time} ~~thus~~ afforded a presage of the new glory
he was to acquire (in the eventful Campaign for himself &
County.) ^{note 2.} Many were entitled to ^{special Commendation} ~~particular Credit~~ in this band
of heroic spirits on Kings Mountain - ~~the history of that day~~
~~and concurrent testimony would ascribe it to Col Shelly.~~ ^{the first suggested suggestion of the expedition of}
~~the class of Col. I would be wide forward -~~
valor and unshaken resolution rallied the right wing under Col
Campbell (when from a tremendous charge from the enemy at the
onset of the Battle. they were driven down the mountain).

How have the Histories of the war in the South done justice to
the efforts of judgment and sagacity of Col Shelly upon another
interesting occasion just following the affair on Kings Mountain.

As soon as he had placed the prisoners beyond the reach of
the enemy. he repaired to the Headquarters of Gen. Gates.
and ~~canon~~ suggested to him the plan of detaching Gen.
Morgan towards the Mountains. The details of this arrangement
were submitted by him and approved by Gates and Greene
had the good sense to suffer these arrangements to progress
after he assumed the Command - (this was the chief ^{in some degree} ~~only~~
merit due to Greene - the chief merit belonging ^{principally} ~~partly~~
to Gates but ^{chiefly} ~~chiefly~~ to Col Shelly) ~~see at the end~~

He served the Campaign ^{of the fall} of 1781 under General Marion a
distinguished partisan officer of the boldest enterprise - Col Shelly
was called down by General Greene to that lower County with

the veneration of his countrymen -

500 Mounted Riflemen from the Western Water in Sept 1781. To aid
the General in intercepting Cornwallis at that time blockaded by the
French fleet in the Chesapeake and who it was suspected would
endeavour to make good his retreat through N.C. to Charleston; but
upon his Lordships surrender in Virg. Col Shelly was attached to Gen
Marion's Command below on the Santee. and was second in Comm
of a strong detachment under Col Mayhem of Dragoons ordered to
carry a British post at Fairbairn near Monk's Corner. 8 or 10 mi
below the enemy's main army under General Stuart. Information had
been received by Gen Marion that 500 Hessians at that post were in
a state of mutiny and would surrender to any considerable force that
might appear before it - But the officer commanding the post,
having some apprehensions of their fidelity had marched them off to
Charleston the day before Col Mayhem appeared before it. The
post ^{known} was surrendered with upwards of 150 British prisoners -
The British General at Ferguson's Swamp nine miles in the rear
made great though unavailing efforts to intercept Mayhem's party
on their return with the prisoners. to Gen^r Marion's encampment.
This excursion so executed so much astonishment in the British
Commander that he immediately retreated with his whole force to
Charleston -

~~In justice to Col Shelly and the hardy patriots under his
Command it is proper here to review some salient statements, containing
in the 2^d Vol of Johnson's life of General Greene. in relation to their
conduct on this Campaign.~~

As the period for which the mounted Volunteers had engaged
to serve was about to expire and ^{no further} active operations were expected
to be carried on being contemplated after the retreat of the enemy
towards Charleston. Col S. applied obtained leave of absence from
Gen Marion to attend the Assembly of N.C. of which he was a
Member, which would sit 200 miles distant ^{about 1st Dec.} at Marion

Marion addressed a letter on the subject to Gen. Greene which Colonel Shelly was permitted to see, speaking in high terms of the Conduct of the Mountaineers and assigning particular credit to Col. Shelly for the part he took in the Capture of the British post, as it surrendered to him after an ineffectual attempt by an officer of Dragoons.

In 1782. Colonel Shelly was elected a Member of the N. Carolina Assembly and was appointed one of the Commissioners to settle the preemption Claims on the Cumberland river and to lay off the lands allotted to the officers and Soldiers of the N. Carolina line south of where Nashville now stands. He performed this service in the winter of 1782-3. and returned to Boonesborough in April following where he married Susanna, 2nd daughter of Capt. N. Hart. one of the first Settlers of Ky. and one of the proprietors styled Henderson & Co. by their purchase of the Country from the Cherokees.

He established himself upon the first settlement and preemption granted in Ky. with the design of pursuing his favorite occupation the Cultivation of the Soil: To this spot. he had been led in the Chase of a buffalo. from the Knob. lick and being struck with the character of the land, he resolved to locate it and make it his future residence: At his death 43 years after, he was the only individual in the State residing upon his own settlement. Preemption; death; removal to the New State or better better having disappointed all of the early settlers in this fine region of their particular settlement. This fact illustrates the migratory Character of the people and the great uncertainty of land claims and is pregnant with reflections as curious as those arising from another fact: in the knowledge of the writer of this sketch. which he received a few years ago from the and the veneration of his countrymen -

widow of the celebrated General Logan. That ~~she~~^{she}, at one period, ^{was} personally acquainted with every white man in Kentucky - At the time of this declaration this State contained a population of 600,000.

Col. Shelby was a Member of the early Conventions held at Danville for the purpose of obtaining a separation from the State of Virginia and was a Member of those Conventions which formed the first Constitution of Ky. in April 1792. In May following he was notified by the College of Electors (of which Harry Innes was President) of his being chosen elected to the office of Governor under the new Constitution. This unexpected event found him engaged in the ^{retired} avocations of his farm. He hesitated some time before he should decide upon an acceptance of the office. ^{In his own opinion} his previous habits and pursuits had not prepared him for the duties of the highest civil trust. but when he reflected on the critical state of the Country, he could not long doubt as to the path of duty. He called to his aid the talents and legal acquirements of James Brown. Esq. Secretary of State, who has since rendered distinguished services to the Nation in the Senate of the U. S. and as Minister to the Court of France. His administration commenced at a very interesting period. After the people of Kentucky, after petitioning the parent state and the General Government ^{for a separation} from 1786 to 1792 and sustaining themselves unaided in the remote wilderness, were admitted to the privileges of an Independent State. but their entire boundary was nevertheless a frontier and exposed to repeated incursions from the savage foe. - The ineffectual attempts of the General Gov. by a regular force U. of the Ohio to chastise the Savages had resulted in the defeats of St. Clair and Harmar and the burden of

the War rested upon the hardy adventurers of Kentucky. In the
emergency of affairs, the military talents, the sound ^{judgment} ~~sense~~ and the
patriotic energy of Gov. Shelby were put in requisition - the
Condition in which the Commonwealth was left at the expiration
of his Administration and his Correspondence with the Heads of
Dept. under General Washington. will shew how faithfully
and honorably he discharged the duties of Chief Magistrate.
That Correspondence and his Communications to the Legislature
will exhibit him as displaying the character of the General
the Lawgiver the Diplomatist.

and the Veneration of his Countrymen -

Shelby Thomas

by

Wm. L. Ladd

Sacred to the Memory of Isaac Shelby.
who departed this life 18th July 1826. Aged 76.
He was born near Fort Frederic, in the vicinity
of Hagerstown, Maryland, on the 11th Dec^r. 1750.
His father, Evan, was a distinguished officer in
the War of 1756. and in that of the Revolution -
Isaac was a Lieut. in the Company of his father
at the Battle at the Mouth of Kenhawa 10th
Oct. 1774. He fought gallantly and skilfully
as Colonel in the Southern Campaigns of 1780 & 81.
at Cedar Springs, Marsgrove's Mill, Post on
Hickelty, King's Mountain and Monk's Corner.
He was the first Gov. of Ken. and again elected
in 1812, when he led his Countrymen to battle
and Victory at the Thames 5. Oct 1813.

~~As~~ As a Warrior, he was brave, skilful
and successful; as a Statesman enlightened,
energetic and incorruptible; as a patriot,
disinterested, and zealously devoted to the great
principles of Civil Liberty; as a Farmer,
industrious, judicious and practical; and as a
Citizen riveting the affections of his friends
and the veneration of his Countrymen -

He was formed on the model of Washington and
passed through a long life of eminent services
with unsullied integrity, a bright Example of
public and private virtue - "He was, indeed,
a Father to Kentucky, his services are interwoven
with the History and his fame blended with the
glory of the State."

This Monument of the veneration and gratitude
with which his memory is cherished by the people
of Kentucky, has been erected in obedience
to a joint resolution of both branches of the
General Assembly, approved 17th day of
January 1827. —

be inserted.

5th page - Note 1 - Colonel Shelby, Lt Col^s Sevier and Clarke, the latter a Refugee officer from Georgia were detached with 600 men to surprise a post of the enemy in front on the waters of Pacolet river. It was a strong fort, surrounded by abattis and built in the Cherokee Mtn. and commanded at that time by the distinguished Loyalist Capt Patrick Moore. On the second summons to surrender after the Americans had surrounded the post within musket shot, Capt Moore surrendered the garrison with 1 British Sergeant Major 93 Loggists and 250. Stand of Arms loaded with ball and buckshot. and so arranged at the port holes. as to have repulsed double the number of the American Detachment -

1st page. No. 2 - If any were entitled to especial Commendation in this ^{band} of heroic spirits on Kings Mountain, the claim of Col Shelby would be well founded. He originated the expedition and his valor and unshaken resolution contributed to rally ^{of the front line,} right wing, when from a tremendous charge by the enemy at the close of the battle it was driven down the Mountain. Nor have the histories of the War in the South done justice to the judgment and sagacity of Col Shelby upon another interesting occasion just following the affair on Kings Mountain. As soon as he had placed the prisoners beyond the reach of the enemy. he repaired to the Head quarters of Gen^l Gates and suggested to him the plan of detaching General Morgan towards the Mountains. The details of this arrangement were

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submitted by him and approved by Gates; and Greene had
the good sense to suffer them to progress after he assumed
the Command. The result of this advice was exhibited
in the splendid affair at the Cowpens which added fresh
luster to the veteran brows of Morgan, Howard
and Washington -

Sketch of the Life of
Gov. Isaack Shelby

Written by Col. Charles S. Todd.