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James Milton Andrews

Andrews Family

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1-11-1953

### News Clipping - 1953, January 11 - Samuel Andrews Home of North Brittain Surrounded by Revolutionary Tradition

Clarence Griffin

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# Samuel Andrews Home North Of Brittain

## Surrounded By Revolutionary Tradition

June 11-1953

Large Brick Home  
Believed Built About  
1800

Ancient Home To Be Remodeled

By CLARENCE GRIFFIN

The old Samuel Andrews home, located on Cane Creek, about two miles north of Brittain Presbyterian church, in northern Rutherford county, is one of the county's oldest extant homes, and will soon undergo some renovations which will make it the pride of the present owner, as it did the original builder of a hundred or more years ago.

Just when the home was built is still a matter of conjecture among the members of the present-day generation of the Andrews family. The plantation was acquired by Samuel Andrews from the Hamilton family, another family of much prominence in the early days of the county. Some evidence points to the date of the construction of the building being as early as 1800, while some place it a few years later. At any rate it is known that it is well over the century mark and may be nearer 150 years of age. It is not known whether the Hamilton family or Samuel Andrews built the house, although if built by Andrews it was constructed prior to 1810, as he died in that year.

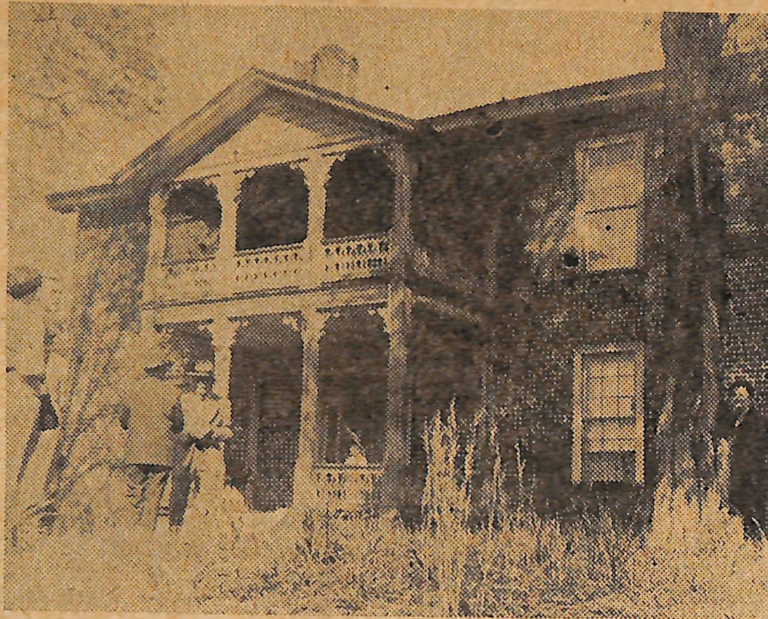
It seems that the present plantation, along with the old brick house, was acquired by Andrews, who added it to his immense real estate holdings along Cane Creek.

### Ardent Whig

Samuel Andrews, an ardent Whig, who saw service in the American Revolution, lived there sometime, and near this home a skirmish was fought between Col. Ferguson's British troops and Charles McDowell's Rangers.

It is also told that, when Ferguson was encamped on the plantation he impressed Samuel Andrews into service as a guide. He was instructed to go with the British on a foraging party among the mountain coves and point out Whig families who might possess anything in the line of edibles such as cattle, hogs, poultry, etc. for use of the British troops. Upon Andrews return he later told some of his neighbors that under his guidance he wouldn't be surprised if Ferguson's men may have "accidentally" raided, without being aware of it, a number of farms belonging to Tory families, which abounded in the community.

2 1/2 Story Home



THE OLD ANDREWS HOME, north of Brittain Presbyterian church, in northern Rutherford county, is one of the oldest homes in the county. It is in an excellent state of preservation and will soon be remodeled by its present owner. (Staff Photo)

check on the young ladies could be kept at night, they being unable to enter or leave without passing through the master bedroom downstairs.

The building is of "L" construction, the kitchen and dining room occupying the short end of the "L". Four rooms enter the hallways both upstairs and downstairs. Entrance to the kitchen and dining room is through one of the bedrooms.

A large roomy attic is entered by a flight of stairs from the second floor.

Lord Cornwallis, on the 29th of August, 1780, announced to Sir Henry Clinton: "Ferguson is to move into Tryon county with some militia." Shortly afterwards Ferguson entered the county and encamped at Gilbert Town, one mile north of Rutherfordton. For many miles around the people wended their way to headquarters of this noted representative of the British Crown; thinking that as Charleston had fallen, Gates being defeated, Sumter surprised and dispersed, and the various detachments lately in force in the Spartanburg and Tryon regions disbanded and scattered, that the Whig cause was utterly prostrate.

### Ferguson Camps Nearby

While at Gilbert Town Ferguson led a detachment to surprise Col. Charles McDowell at the head of

round elevation about a quarter



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### 2½ Story Home

The two and one-half story Andrews home is in an excellent state of preservation today. It was constructed of brick, which are larger than present day building brick. They were made on the creek near the house. In common with most buildings of that day, the walls are unusually thick, the rooms are large, well lighted with high ceilings. A staircase in the first-floor hall goes to the second floor. One peculiarity of the home is the young ladies room on the second floor, which cannot be entered from that floor. Instead, a second flight of stairs, smaller than the flight in the hall, goes to the second floor bed-room from the interior of the parents' room on the first floor. In this manner a close

banded and scattered, that the Whig cause was utterly prostrate.

### Ferguson Camps Nearby

While at Gilbert Town Ferguson led a detachment to surprise Col. Charles McDowell at the head of Cane Creek, in the present county of McDowell. An engagement took place with McDowell's force, which had been beating about the mountains since retiring from Smith's Ford on Broad river in August, and were now retreating towards the Watauga Settlements in East Tennessee. The British force encamped at White Oak Springs, north of the Andrews home, and on the direct road from Morganton to Gilbert Town. McDowell, learning of their positions, and too weak to meet the enemy on equal terms, concluded to waylay them on their southward return march. He therefore selected a spot for an ambushade at Bedford's Hill, a very short distance from the Andrews home. This hill is a small

round elevation about a quarter of a mile from the base of the South Mountains, then covered with timber and surrounded by a soft swamp. If forced to retire the Whigs had an easy access to the mountains nearby, where they would be safe against almost any force the enemy could send against them.

Here McDowell's party awaited the coming of the British force and as they were passing, an indecisive fight ensued. The enemy, after receiving the unexpected fire of McDowell's backwoodsmen, rallied and beat the Americans back. McDowell's men by their united bravery and good bushwhacking management, in which their real weakness was concealed, and by their activity and well-aimed rifle shots they succeeded in inflicting considerable execution on their antagonists—killing several, and, among others, wounding Major Dunlap. The British now prepared to retire to Gilbert Town, conveying their disabled commander with them, who was severely wounded in the leg; while McDowell's party, numbering about 160 men, directed their retreat up the Catawba Valley and over the mountains to the friendly Watauga Settlements.

Quite a number of bones were brought to light, about 1840, at the point where this Cane Creek fight occurred, the remains of British and Tories, who fell in this spirited contest. Lieut. Anthony Allaire of Ferguson's corps, notes in his diary that this engagement occurred Sept. 12, 1780.

### Neighborhood Skirmish

Ferguson and his officers seemed to prefer camping on or near some hill or elevation, so while prosecuting their retreat from Cane Creek, they took post on top of a high hill at Samuel Andrews place. Here the stock, poultry and everything the British could make use of were unfeelingly appropriated; while the unfortunate Andrews and his Whig neighbors fled for safety to the neighboring Cane Creek mountains.

After the Revolution Andrews settled down in the neighborhood and became one of the county's leading citizens in the civic, religious and social life. He was one of the first three elders of Brittain Presbyterian church when the congregation was organized in 1768, and throughout his life he evidenced a keen interest in that church. He was the progenitor of the Andrews family in Rutherford and reared a fine family, all of whom became leading citizens of their community and age. The late Captain George W. Andrews, of the Confederate army, was a grandson.

Samuel Andrews died in 1810 and is buried in Brittain church cemetery.