Per the request from our Lower Cape Fear North Carolina chapter president, I, Clarence (Chuck) M. Collins, III (Nat # 184268, State # 3595) am submitting a bio of my patriot ancestor, Colonel Alexander Erwin (ACN 50886). He is my 5th Great Maternal Grandfather and my “supplemental behind his wife, Sarah Anne Robinson Erwin, who actually shed blood and died for the Revolutionary Cause.

BIO of Colonel Alexander Erwin

Fighting as a lieutenant, then captain of mounted riflemen, Alexander Erwin and his company of riflemen fought not only the Tories but against British troops. They served in the light horse battalion of Major Joseph McDowell, which saw action at Cane Creek, S.C. (Sept 12,1780), the retreat to the Watauga Settlements, the Battle of Kings Mountain (Oct 7, 1780), and the Cowpens action (17 Jan 1781). His final actions took place in the spring and again in the fall of 1782 with raids against the Cherokee /Chickamauga Indians. He was later appointed Colonel of the newly formed Morgan District.

Alexander Erwin became a civilian leader of stature and significance. He was the first clerk of Court of Burke County, N.C., a trustee of Morgan Academy, Representation of the Burke County House of Commons, elder of the Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church, and one of three commissioners appointed to administer the legislation establishing a courthouse and county seat.

He harbored great animosity throughout his life toward the Tories, who were responsible for the death of his first wife at age 35, as she received a sword thrust while trying to protect a wounded patriot. It is said after ending court each night, he would ride his horse through town loudly proclaiming that any Tory had better be out of town by sunset, or face his consequences.

He is buried alongside his wife, Sarah Anne Robinson Erwin, at the Quaker Meadows Cemetery in Burke County, North Carolina. Quaker Meadows Cemetery is on the National Register of Historic Places, received state funding for its restoration in 1979, and is managed by the Burke County Historical Society. It is the final resting place for many patriots from that county.