



Wronged and Wronged

A compelling argument can be made that both the NC Colonial Legislature and later, the Post-Revolutionary War NC General Assembly named the County of Cumberland and the City of Fayetteville respectively to spite the Highland Scots who settled both.

Between 1729 – 1736 - Highland Scots created the settlement of Campbellton (a receiving and distribution center) on the Cape Fear River in what was then Bladen County. Campbellton was a part of the Argyll Colony.

1746 – Battle of Culloden Moor – A Jacobite army comprised mostly of Highland Scots loyal to the House of Stuart were defeated by King George II's English army led by the King's brother, William Augustus (Duke of Cumberland). Cumberland's post-battle slaughter of innocent men, women and children earned him the nickname 'Butcher', even in England's Parliament. Thousands of defeated Jacobites and misplaced Highlanders left Scotland to join their countrymen in NC, most having to pledge loyalty to the King before they could emigrate.

1754 - The NC Colonial Legislature passed an Act which resulted in the political division of Bladen County, and the County of Cumberland was created, named after the 'Butcher'. No doubt the name was chosen to humiliate the Scots.

1756 – The Scottish community of Cross Creek forms a short distance from Campbellton.

1776 – In honor of their oaths of loyalty, many of the Cape Fear Highland Scots answered the call to arms from the Royal Governor of NC. In February of that year, outnumbered and outgunned, the Highlanders were routed in a battle with rebel militia at the Battle of Moore's Creek in Pender County, NC.

1783 - Campbellton and Cross Creek are merged and renamed Fayetteville in honor of Marquis De La Fayette, a French general that served in the American Colonies Revolutionary Army. Retribution because the Scots fought for the King? Most likely

Today, La Fayette's name and likeness is almost ubiquitous in a town in which he spent one night. On the other hand, the Highland Scots who founded the community, and in which thousands of their descendants still live, are barely a footnote.