



Teacher's Guide: Individual Stories Gallery

Below are short summaries about the people featured in the Individual Stories Gallery. These summaries condense information provided in the primary and secondary sources and may be similar to what students turn in for their historical highway marker assignments.

Colin Shaw - Loyalist

A Revolutionary War veteran and merchant from the Isle of Jura, Colin Shaw came to the colonies with **a land grant from the King of England**. He built a plantation between Cross Creek and the Cape Fear River, **helping family members emigrate from Scotland** by giving them portions of his land. He became a successful mill owner and merchant in Cumberland County and was twice commissioned as a Captain in the King's Army. During the Revolutionary War, he fought for the King, refused to take the Oath of Allegiance, and had his property confiscated.

David Fanning - Loyalist

David Fanning was a notorious Loyalist **militia leader** during the Southern Campaign of 1781. He grew up in Johnston (now Wake) County, was apprenticed at a young age, and later moved to South Carolina, where he became a soldier. His violent exploits were so infamous that he was one of three men excluded from the 1783 'Act of Pardon and Oblivion' and banned from returning to North Carolina. After the war, he and his wife moved to Florida, then New Brunswick. He later relocated to Nova Scotia, owned a shipbuilding business, and died in 1825.

Mary Lewellin - Loyalist

Mary Lewellin was married to John Lewellin, who initiated the Gourd Patch Conspiracy out of **fear of Catholicism** spreading in North Carolina after the new state constitution declared freedom of religion. He allegedly planned to murder fourteen political leaders and incite an enslaved revolt to capture the powder magazine in Halifax. The conspiracy was thwarted before it began, and most conspirators were charged with lesser treason, took the Oath of Abjuration and Allegiance, and were released. John was sentenced to execution, but Governor Caswell, who was one of the intended victims, pardoned him (perhaps with Mary's plea in mind), shaping the governor's role in state politics. John returned home.

Thomas Stewart - Patriot

Thomas Stewart, **a member of the Sappony tribe**, enlisted in the Virginia infantry, serving under Captain Dawson and General Gibson on the Virginia Continental Line. He was at Valley Forge, where he was inoculated against smallpox as part of the earliest known large-scale immunization program, and later served in the southern campaign under Generals Greene and Gates. He fought at the Battle of Guilford, where he was permanently injured, and was present at the siege of Yorktown. In 1792, he and his wife Sarah settled in Person County, NC, where he started a blacksmith shop.

Harlowe Patriots

Around 14 free African Americans from the Harlowe community in Carteret County fought as patriots. Harlowe was established around 1720 after the Tuscarora War and **free people of color** moved south from Virginia to buy land. Patriots from the community included Martin Black, Isaac Carter, and Joshua Carter. Note: students can examine the Carteret County militia roster to find those names.

Martin Black first enlisted in the county militia and later joined Stevenson's Company of the North Carolina Continental Line on May 16, 1777. He served for three years, marching to Valley Forge and transferring to the Second North Carolina Regiment. Black was captured at the Fall of Charleston on May 12, 1780. He escaped after seven days, re-enlisted, and served until the British evacuated Charleston on December 14, 1782.

Isaac Carter enlisted in the Carteret County militia before the Revolution began. In the winter of 1778, he served at Fort Hancock at Cape Lookout, North Carolina, along with Joshua Carter, William Dove, and Isaac Perkins. Isaac Carter left his regiment in June 1783 and received a certificate for his militia service in the Wilmington District in 1785.

Joseph Graham – Patriot

Joseph Graham, a Revolutionary soldier, politician, and iron entrepreneur, was born in Chester County, PA, and settled in Mecklenburg County, NC. He **witnessed the adoption of the Mecklenburg Resolves** in Charlotte on May 31, 1775. From 1778 to 1781, Graham fought in fifteen minor engagements in North and South Carolina, rising from private to major. His notable service included commanding a rear-guard action against Tarleton's cavalry, allowing General William R. Davie to evade Cornwallis's troops. Despite being wounded nine times, Graham survived and later led a company of dragoons in the Cape Fear region. He was known for his determination and devotion to duty.