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PATRICK JACK 1700 - 1780

Tavernkeeper, Charlotte, N. C.

Patrick Jack, Jr., son of Patrick Jack and Ellen Jarvis, was born 19 September 1700 in Ballykelly, County Derry, Ireland. In County Down he married Lillis McAdoo in 1728. He died in North Carolina in 1780.

Patrick Jack arrived in America in 1730 and shortly after that settled in Chambersburg, Pa., where he remained nearly 30 years. About 1760 two sons remained behind when Jack and his family joined the tide of emigration to the Southern colonies. He purchased a tract of land between Grant and Second Creeks in Rowan County, N.C. He sold this land about two years later and moved to the adjoining county of Mecklenburg, where by strict economy and industry, he was "blest in his basket and his store." In 1775 he and his eldest son, Capt. James Jack, who had united in business with his father, owned several of the choice blocks in Charlotte. On one of these lots on Trade Street, opposite the First Presbyterian Church, Patrick lived when the delegates from the militia districts of the county assembled on the 19th and 20th of May 1775 in his public house of entertainment. Here Patrick Jack was accustomed to crack many an Irish joke, to the delight of his visitors; and by his wit, genial good humor and pleasantry, greatly contributed to the reputation of his house and inculcated his own patriotic principles. The house soon became the favorite place of resort for the students of "Queen's Museum" and of other ardent spirits of the town and country.

On 26 September 1780 Lord Cornwallis entered Charlotte with the expectation of soon restoring North Carolina to the Crown. Patrick Jack was then an old and infirm man, but neither age nor infirmity could enlist the sympathies of the British soldiery. The patriotic character of the house was known. The British soldiers removed its aged owner from the feather bed upon which he was lying, emptied its contents into the street and then set the house on fire. The

reason assigned for this incendiary act was that all four of old Jack's sons were in the rebel army and he had been an active promoter of independence. The excitement of the burning scene, the consequent exposure and great nervous shock was too much for this veteran patriot. He died nine days later on 5 October 1780. Both he and his wife were members of the Presbyterian Church and their mortal remains repose in the old graveyard in Charlotte.

- by William Elkin Shell Jack

75-32

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