

Dedication of the Hobbs' Cemetery Containing the Graves of Vincent Hobbs, Sr. and his son Absolum Hobbs

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Vincent Hobbs, Sr. was among the earliest settlers in Dryden, Virginia, and thus in the general area of Big Stone Gap. He and his family played pivotal roles on the frontier, and later. The locations of his grave, and that of his son Absolum, have just been rediscovered. Today the Hobbs family gathered from across the country to attend a dedication ceremony conducted by the Martin's Station Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. The Federal Government has just supplied Hobbs with a grave marker for Revolutionary War soldiers, which has just been placed within the old Hobbs' cemetery.

Vincent Hobbs, Sr. was born in England in 1722. He married Mary Shelby. They migrated to America via Delaware, and then on to Montgomery County, Virginia. In 1774 the Shawnee Indians of Ohio under the leadership of Chief Cornstalk, planned an invasion of western Virginia with the goal of driving all the settlers out. In 1774 Vincent joined Captain Daniel Smith's Company of the Fincastle Militia. Daniel Smith's fort was located between Lebanon and Tazewell, Virginia. At this point in time, Hobbs lived on the North Fork of the Holston near Mendota, Virginia. That militia company was known as the Elk Garden Militia.

The Fincastle Militia fought the Shawnee in a bloody all day battle at Point Pleasant, Virginia (now West Virginia). The Indians withdrew during the following night, thus saving the Southwest Virginia settlements.

During the Revolutionary War, Vincent Hobbs, Sr. joined Captain Joseph Cloyd's Company of the Montgomery County Militia. Their initial assignment was to guard the lead mines at Austinville, south of Wytheville, Virginia. However, in October 1780 they were ordered to King's Mountain. On the way there, they were waylaid by Tories and the Battle of Shallow Ford resulted, during which Captain Cloyd was killed. The company continued on to King's Mountain, where they arrived too late to take part in that battle.

Cloyd's Militia Company was again dispatched to fight the forces of the British Lord Cornwallis, and took place in the Battle of Guilford Court House, which they won. This victory, along with that of King's Mountain and that of the Battle of Cow Pens forced Cornwallis to Yorktown, where he surrendered.

Vincent Hobbs, Sr. bought land on both sides of the Powell River south of Dryden. This land has been in the Hobbs family ever since, and is just now being sold off. This was the occasion for identifying the grave site.

In 1794 Vincent Hobbs, Jr. was in command of the Militia Ranger's Station at the mouth of Station Creek at Yoakum's Station on the road that connects the Woodway Road and Dryden. In April that year Chief Bob Benge of the Cherokee attacked the Livingston household that was located between the Hobbs' older farm where they had lived before moving to Dryden, and Benham's Fort on the North Fork of the Holston River upstream from Mendota, Virginia.

Absolum Hobbs, son of Vincent, Sr., and brother of Vincent, Jr., lead Benham's Fort's militia on an all night march to his brother's garrison at Yoakum's Station. Together these garrisons marched to Hoot Owl Hollow and Benge's Branch near Norton, where Vincent Hobbs, Jr. shot and killed Chief Benge as he made his way to passes through which he had expected to escape into Kentucky. This was to prove to be the last hostile act of the Indian Wars in Virginia. Absolum is buried in the cemetery with his father, Vincent Hobbs, Sr.

Absolum Hobbs' son, Joshua Hobbs, fought in the Confederate 64th Mounted Infantry that defended their homes in actions at Pound Gap, and at Cumberland Gap, where they surrendered to Federal forces during the Civil War.