**William Jefferson Moore**

**SAR #P-251890 (Pension S2858 19 SEP 1832 / age 73)**

**Born 1759 Berkley County, Virginia**

**At age 17 William was called into militia service initially joining Captain William McAfee’s Company to drive cattle to the militia army forming under Col. William Christian in August of 1776 for what would be known as the Cherokee Expedition** or **Christie's Campaign. Once with the main army** William Moore enrolled in Captain Aaron Lewis’s Company. Col William Christian’s army of about 1,800 men marched on October 6, 1776 from the Double Spring camp toward the Indian towns. William would cross the Nolichucky river and move along the Great War path to the Overhill Cherokee towns along the Little Tennessee River. The army passed through present day Sevier and Blount Counties. No opposition was found during the course of the march which halted at Big Island Town near the present Vonore, Monroe County. The campaign provided William with invaluable knowledge of the terrain he would later fight and settle on.

In 1777. William moved down the Nolachucky river to what is now Washington County, Tennessee. He was active in the militia under the command of Col. John Sevier and would be on alert numerous times during 1777 and 1778 to protect the frontier from British supported Indian attacks.

T**he Chickamauga Expedition 1779.** Chief Dragging Canoe gathered a thousand warriors in and near his town of Chickamauga to attack the frontier settlements. British agents actively encouraged and equipped the Indians as part of British Gov. Henry Hamilton’s strategic goal of making simultaneous Indian attacks along the entire frontier. Col. Shelby was ordered counter Hamilton’s efforts and defend the frontier. William Moore in early March joined Capt. Joseph Wilson’s Company part of Col. Shelby’s force of 350 volunteers. The troops embarked from Rogersville area on 10 Apr 1779 for their journey down the Tennessee River. **J. Woolridge, in the History of Nashville, gives April 13 as the date of battle at Chickamauga. “The Indians were completely routed, Col. Shelby prepared to return overland to the American settlements. After crossing the Tennessee River near the mouth of Chickamauga Creek, he ordered all canoes and pirogues sunk in the river. On the bank of a stream on the north side of the Tennessee River, he ordered a sale of the captured horses, cattle, and weapons. A receipt, preserved by chance, proves the approximate date of the battle and the time of departure of the troops: Chickamauga Town, April 29, 1779. The creek took the name "Sale Creek," and is still called that today.”** Col. Shelby then marched his troops overland through the wilderness to the settlements on the Holston and Watauga. The men suffered from lack of provisions, but they were the first white men (other than the traders) to see the new country, which includes the present-day counties of Knox, Rhea, Roane, Hamilton, Meigs, Polk, Bledsoe, Sequatchie, Bradley, Monroe, and others. Reports from the men caused an instant and unceasing migration of settlers into the general area. William Moore took part in this migration. **The following comment made by Judge Samuel Cole Williams, a well-known historian in his Address at Chickamauga in May 1929 (same year the DAR marked the grave site): “The battle was fought against Indians, but against Indians financed, equipped, and incited by British agents. The foe was not less dangerous but more dangerous because it was savage. The significance of the struggle in the Southwest lies in the fact that had not the Indian allies of great Britain been opposed and defeated time and time again by the western soldiery of the upper East Tennessee Valley, the red men would have invaded Virginia and North Carolina and forced the soldiers of Gen. Washington to face about and confront them, leaving the seaboard an easy prey to the British naval and land forces and [to] the Tories of the Piedmont region”.**

The frontier was now more secure, but the British threat in the Southern Colonies increased. In 1780 William was now under the command of Capt. James Wilson (his Lt from 1779) in Col. John Sevier’s Regiment and would participate in the 1780-1781 campaign into South Carolina.

**Kings Mountain**. The British had turned in late 1780 to attack the Southern colonies. They prevailed without difficulty in Georgia and defeated the Patriot Southern Army in South Carolina. Movement northward in South Carolina was without serious opposition. Major Patrick Ferguson was assigned to the command the British left flank to guard the British move into North Carolina. Ferguson viewed the western settlements with disdain. He was overconfident and sent an order to the frontiersmen**, “If you do not desist your opposition to the British Arms, I shall march this army over the mountains, hang your leaders, and lay waste your country with fire and sword.”** It solicited the wrong response. Col. Sevier and other leaders accepted the challenge gathered the militia at Sycamore Shoals late in September 1780. They were determined to engage Ferguson before he could reach Watauga and advanced into South Carolina. Ferguson was found and surprised on a narrow ridge called King’s Mountain. **Loyalist officer Alexander Chesney later wrote he didn't know the Patriots were anywhere near them until the shooting started.**  **As the screaming Patriots charged up the hill, Captain** [**Abraham de Peyster**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_de_Peyster_(captain)) **turned to Ferguson and said, "These things are ominous — these are the damned yelling boys!**" The Patriot forces had no central command so each detachment fought independently under the previously agreed to plan; their intent was simply surround and destroy the Loyalists. Col. [John Sevier](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sevier)’s men assaulted the mountain's "heel". The Patriots crept up the hill firing from behind rocks and trees remaining well camouflaged. Ferguson rallied his troops and launched desperate bayonet charges. Lacking bayonets, the Patriots ran down the hill rallied, returned to the hill, and resumed firing. The pattern of the battle was set. The westerners claimed victory after about an hour of fighting with a loss of fewer than one hundred men; the British lost three times that number, including Ferguson. The victory turned the British from the West and pushed Sevier forward as one of the foremost figures on the frontier.

The campaign continued into South Carolina but would end for Sevier’s command back on the frontier at the Battle of Boyd’s Creek (6 DEC 1780). The militia remained alert to threats on the frontier while sending elements to support Patriot operations in Carolinas. William Moore could have participated in the following actions; Tuskegee March 1781 (attack on the Indian towns in what is present-day Jackson County, NC); Moccasin Creek, TN (11 SEP 1781) a series of raids against the Cherokee and Moncks Corner #4, SC (16 OCT 1781) where Col. John Sevier and Col. Isaac Shelby supported SC Col. Hezekiah Maham in taking prisoners from a British Hospital.

William Moore’s final campaign was the **Cherokee Expedition 1782 (June 1, 1782 thru October 31, 1782).** Col. John Sevier assembled 200 men at the Great Island on the Holston River. He gathered what provisions he could and marched directly upon Echota there he held a conference with Old Tassel and other chieftains, and won their good will. Col. Sevier next moved on the Lookout towns on the Tennessee River and the Chickamaugas. On the eighth day after departing the Nolichucky River, he came to their towns, and laid one after another of them in ashes. The Patriots took the "Eschota Towns," then went to the towns on the Hiwassee River and burned those towns and destroyed the crops. From there, they marched to some towns on Shoemake Creek, which empties into the East Tennessee River, and here they burned these towns and also destroyed their crops. The Indians fled as before to their hiding places along the river, where they mistakenly thought the Patriots would not follow. Col. Sevier caught them at [Lookout Mountain](http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=4496) on September 20, 1782. Col. John Sevier’s force of some of 250 "Nolichucky Riflemen" engaged the Chickamaugas in a battle high in the palisades at the north end of Lookout Mountain. The Frontiersmen's accurate rifle fire soon overcame their foes. This is considered by many to be the last “Overmountain” battle of the American Revolution.

John Sevier Chapter sponsored historical marker at <https://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=4496>