

RAMSEY'S ANNALS OF TENNESSEE

Pages 186-187

In 1779 North Carolina and Virginia troops determined to destroy the Chickamauga towns of the Cherokee. A strong expedition under Colonel Evan Shelby of 1000 volunteers from western parts of these two states and a regiment of 12 month men under Colonel John Montgomery. They had to get their own supplies because the Revolution had exhausted the resources of the two states. This army started at the mouth of Big Creek a few miles above Rogersville. They made canoes from the forests nearby, and on 10 April 1779 the troops embarked and made a rapid descent of the Holston river. The Indians were surprised and fled to the mountains. Shelby pursued them and killed forty Indians, burnt towns, destroyed corn and drove off flocks of cattle. Eleven towns were destroyed, 20,000 bu. of corn, and 20,000 pounds worth of English goods stored to distribute to the Indians was captured.

In the Chickamauga expedition which followed the above, Evan Shelby had 350 men and Col. Montgomery had 150 men. A pilot named Hudson took boats down river to mouth of Chickamauga Creek. They captured an Indian and used him as guide up the Creek. After wading through swamps and cane breaks they entered Chickamauga town which was nearly one mile long. The famous Dragging Canoe and Big Foot were its chiefs. The Indians were surprised and 500 of them fled to the mountains. The town was burned.

"John McCroskey, late of Sevier County, took a party and followed the flying Indians across the river, and dispersed a camp of them which he found on Laurel Creek. Another party took Little Own Town, and others were in like manner taken and burnt. Besides the other spoils, Shelby took 150 horses, 100 cattle and great quantities of deer skins, owned in part by a trader named McDonald. They were all sold at vendue. Isaac and all the other sons of Col. Evan Shelby, were out on this campaign."

Expedition sank their boats and destroyed supplies and returned on foot. They suffered much for want of provisions, and lived by hunting wild game. They were the first troops from Virginia and Carolina to see the rich bottom lands in the present Hamilton, Rhea, Roane, Knox and part of Jefferson counties. Soon emigration was strated to these lands. They returned up the Tennessee valley in May, the most beautiful season of the year.

RAMSEY, Pages, 240-241; Battle of King's Mountain, October 7, 1780

"Captain Robert Edmonston said to one of his men, John McCroskey, that he did not like his place, and broke forward to the hottest part of the battle, and there received the charge of Dusoister's regulars, discharged his rifle, clubbed his gun, knocked the musket out of the hands of one of the soldiers, and seiging him by the neck, made him his prisoner and brought him to the foot of the hill. Returning again to the British line, he received a mortal wound in the breast. After the surrender, McCroskey went in search of his captain, and told him the battle was over, and the tories were defeated. Edmonston noddes satisfaction, and died."