

used, and, if used at all, only in defensive operations. However, "Lieutenant Henderson" and his militiamen joined the mad and defiant volunteers under Colonel Wear, and in the words of the Gazette of July 13, 1793, this entire force:

"marched to the mountains, where they discovered several trails, winding various ways, which at last terminated in one plain beaten path, leading to Tallassee, a town situated in the mountain boasted of by the Indians, as ~~inaccessible~~ inaccessible to the white people. Near this town they overtook a number of Indians on the North bank of the Tennessee, when a heavy fire began on both sides; but the Indians soon leaped into the river, on which the white men ran to the bank, killed fifteen fellows, and took four squaws prisoners, which they have brought in with them, and wish to exchange for the property taken from them. During the engagement on the North, a sharp fire was kept up by the Indians from the South side of the river. It is to be regretted that a squaw was by accident killed in the water."

Colonel Wear's Tallassee expedition doubtless followed the branch of the Indian War Path from the French Broad that "went up the west fork of Little Pigeon, and crossed some small mountains, to the Tuckaleeche towns, and so on to the Over-hill villages of the Cherokees." Tallassee was an "Overhill" town on the Little Tennessee river just below the present Calderwood. To reach Tallassee from Wear's Fort the logical route was through Wear's Valley, Tuckaleechee Cove, and Cade's Cove. This was probably the route of the War Path as well as Colonel Wear's men in 1793.

Indian depredations in Sevier County continued after Colonel Wear's Tallassee expedition. The Gazette of May 23, 1794 contained this brief announcement: "On Tuesday the 5th instant Peter Pearcefield was killed by the Indians near Wear's Cove..." Then in the issue of June 5, the sequel appeared:

"On the 14th of last May, Joseph Evans, Thomas Sellers, and James Hubbard, junior, set out in pursuit of a party of Indians, who had murdered Pearcefield to take satisfaction; but not falling in upon their trail, they made towards Big Tellise town, where they discovered a large encampment of Indian warriors; in the night they went into their camp, and killed four fellows, asleep on the ground, and immediately retreated, and got safe into the settlement on the 21st- Evans and his party were dressed and painted like Indians."

For 157 years this story of the murder of Pearcefield has been a tradition in the Crowson family of Wear's Valley. Mrs. R.W. Crowson, age 90, who has lived in Wear's Valley all of her life remembers a slightly different version of this story, as told to her by Richard Crowson, her father-in-law. Recently she stated to this writer that Aarona Crowson, father of Richard Crowson, and a man named Pearcefield came from North Carolina to Wear's Valley to select homesteads, and that they, riding on horses, were attacked by the Indians in the gap of the mountain on the old Walden's Creek road. Pearcefield was shot, but Crowson escaped on his horse down Walden's Creek to Wear's Fort. Later he and other men returned and found Pearcefield's body which was buried on the Crowson land in Wear's Valley. Today an uninscribed stone and a tree marks the site of this first grave in the Crowson family cemetery.