**Jacob Blount (P-116752 & P116752)**

**John Rodman Andrew SAR# 188613**

Jacob, the fourth son of Thomas and Ann Elizabeth Blount, was destined to become an important citizen of North Carolina and through his unusual family to play a significant part in American affairs for over half a century. In 1748 he married Barbara Gray of Bertie County and for some years following he resided in that county near Windsor. Barbara had inherited 600 acres of land on the west side of Cashia (now Cashie) River, adjoining the land of her brother William. It is probable that Jacob and Barbara lived on this land while in Bertie. While there, Jacob was made a justice of the peace, an office which at that time was usually bestowed only on prominent citizens of a community…

Blount was also interested in political affairs and became very active in the colony's preparation for the Revolution. He was a justice of the peace and a juror in Craven County in the 1760's and 1770's. He represented Craven County in the General Assembly in 1766, 1768, 1769, and 1770-1771. He was twice nominated to the Council of State and on at least one occasion was elected, but declined to accept. He served on numerous com­mittees and in general played a fairly important part in the work of the General Assembly. He was a friend of John Harvey, the recalcitrant speaker of the House of Commons, and went on Har­vey's bond for £ 10,000 proclamation money. Although Jacob Blount took part in the battle of Alamance against the Regu­lators, he became very active in the movements against royal authority within the next decade. He was a member of the Pro­vincial Congress at New Bern in April, 1775, of the Third Pro­vincial Congress at Hillsboro, and of the Fourth Provincial Con­gress at Halifax in April, 1776. While a member of the Provin­cial Congress at New Bern, he served on a committee to aid in collecting supplies for the support of the sufferers in Boston who were being penalized by the British governments. While at the Congress at Halifax, he served on the committee to prepare the first state constitution of North Carolina. He was a member of the Committee of Safety of the County of Craven and the town of New Bern and was elected to the Committee of Safety of Pitt County. He signed the testimony of the committee which pledged allegiance to the Continental Congress and denied that Parlia­ment or "any member or constitutional branch thereof" had the right to tax or to regulate internal policy. He was appointed paymaster for the Second Regiment and later became paymaster for the whole province of North Carolina during the Revolution. Blount's interests extended to many phases of community af­fairs. He was a vestryman in Craven County and was among those who subscribed sums of money to build a schoolhouse at New Bern and petitioned the governor to persuade the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to favor the application of Thomas Tomlison as a teacher .