

## *Hillsborough Founding Site upgraded by N.C. Society:*

Members of the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati recently took important steps to preserve and improve the Hillsborough, N.C. site where the Society was first organized, on October 23, 1783. The one acre property was the home of Scottish immigrant James Hogg and was deeded to the Society by the Orange County Board of education about 1983.

The site is now an important part of the Cameron Park Walking tour of Historic Hillsborough and lies within yards of the site where six Regulators were hanged for taking part in the revolt against Governor Tryon's royal government in 1771.



After Hogg moved to a more spacious home across the Eno River, the house where the Cincinnati initially met served for a time as the law office of Judge Thomas Ruffin. But gradually the building fell into disuse and, in the late 1930s or early '40s, was razed and most of the materials dispersed. Chimney bricks and foundation stones are all that remain of the original log structure.



Protecting the property against vandalism and making it more easily accessible was largely the work of Robert Andrew Parker and Armistead Burwell Jr. of Raleigh. A fence was erected around the remains and walkways approaching the site were cleared of underbrush and otherwise improved. A monument with bronze plaque commemorating the bicentennial of the founding of the North Carolina Society also was repositioned to face the entrance walkway.

In many ways James Hogg typified the spirit of the Revolution. In his book *Voyagers to the West*, Bernard Bailyn characterized him as a man of "energy, enterprise and boundless ambition." Leading a large group of settlers from the Scottish Highlands in 1774, Hogg joined his brother Robert in Wilmington, where the brothers engaged in a flourishing mercantile business. James relocated briefly to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) to set up a satellite trading operation before settling in Hillsborough to supervise the company's activities in the upcountry. He also engaged in land speculation with Richard Henderson, principal organizer of the unsuccessful Transylvania Company - an ambitious attempt to establish a separate British colony in Kentucky. In November 1775 Hogg journeyed to Philadelphia, meeting with John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and other members of the Continental Congress in furtherance of the scheme. With war with England looming and Virginia claiming jurisdiction over the Kentucky lands, the Transylvania enterprise collapsed.



Hogg's brother, Robert was loyal to the crown and returned to Scotland on the eve of war with England. James himself was a leader in the Patriot cause and an active member of the Hillsborough Committee of Safety throughout the Revolution. Afterward, he was a driving force in locating the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and served on the university's Board of Trustees from 1789 to 1802.

Take some time to view the site when you're in the area. There are many other attractions of interest in Historic Hillsborough, where North Carolina's leaders took a firm stand for the liberty, independence and the Bill of Rights on the banks of the Eno River.