

SNIDOW'S FORT

In the account of John Lybrook about the 1774 Indian attack, John verifies the location of Fort Snidow (see 4th paragraph of the Indian attack story...go to our Site Map page and click on Indian Attack). He gives the distance from the massacre scene to the fort as "1 1/2 miles below on the river" which would be at or near the mouth of Little Stony Creek in Pembroke.

This is confirmed in Jacob Snidow's deposition in 1832 at the time of his application for a Revolutionary War pension (click on "Revolutionary War Pension Applications" on the Site Map page).



(drawing is not a true depiction...we do not know how the fort appeared)

In the research papers of the late John Jacob Snidow Sr. (1887-1942), he wrote: "The Snidows (*referring to Elizabeth Helm Snidow and her children*) first settled near the mouth of Sinking Creek and helped to build the Snidow Fort on the Horseshoe Farm. After the massacres of Sunday morning, August 7, 1774, they probably wanted to get away from the vicinity of this place that had witnessed such a calamity to them. It is reasonable to believe that they figured the mouth of Stony Creek would give them more security from future invasions of the Indians. The Snidow Fort was almost as close and far more accessible; the country was more open, with no high bluffs close by for the Indians to spy from; and the Chapmans, who had settled in 1771 at the mouth of Walker's Creek, a short distance below them, would give them protection, or at least warning from that direction.

The Snidow's Fort that Jacob speaks of (*in his Revolutionary War Pension application*), I believe was their residence especially built for unusual protection, with loop holes for rifle fire, as was the custom in a lot of the frontier houses. After going through the experiences that they had near the Lybrook home, it is natural to presume that they would build their new home so as to give them as much protection as possible and virtually make a fort out of it, to protect the balance of the family.

The site of this fort or home was marked up to recent years by the pile of stone that was used in the construction of the chimney. It was located in the bottom formerly owned and sold a few years ago by W. Arthur Snidow. The home now owned by Arch Collins is a short distance west of this location, which was close to the foot of the hill. It was north of the present Virginian Rail Road, a short distance and diagonally across and up the river, was the majestic Castle Rock." (*Remember that John Jacob Snidow Sr. wrote the above prior to 1942*).

Both Jacob and Christian Snidow later served at the Fort. Following are excerpts from each of their Revolutionary War Pension applications:

(Christian Snidow) ...acting as Lieutenant, he was again ordered into service with his company by Colo. William Preston on the 3rd day of April 1779 and stationed at Snidow's Fort on New River for the purpose of scouting the surrounding country and of defending the frontier settlement against the invasions and depredations of the Shawnee Indians. He served on this tour three months, at the expiration of which he and his Company were discharged.

(Jacob Snidow) ...in the ensuing Spring 1780 as early as the 1st day of April he entered the Service of his County in Snidows Fort at the mouth of Stony Creek which was erected in the year 1774 immediately after his mother moved to that place. That the nature of his Services during that season was to defend the Fort and go out with small spying parties to watch the sly approaches of the Indians.....That he remained in Fort that year with an embodied Corps until the 1st day of November under the Command of the aforesaid Captain John Lucuss and during the whole of that aforesaid time he was not engaged in any civil pursuit. That in the year 1781 on the 1st day of April he again entered the service of his country as an Indian Spy and continued in Service until the 1st day of November following. that they were stationed this year in Snidows Fort at the mouth of Stony Creek that during this year he again Scouted as an Indian Spy in company with the aforesaid Edward Hale & Heseekiah Adkins that the nature of his services were the same as described the preceding year and that he was commanded by the aforesaid Captain John Lucuss.....

If anyone has more information on Fort Snidow, please contact the webmaster.