During the revolution Benjamin Greer apparently saw various services in the Wilkes County Militia, although documentary record of this is scarce. One account of his most famous exploit, the rescue of Col. Benjamine Cleveland from the Tories in April 1781 near Meat Camp Creek, is related in A HISTORY OF WATAUGA COUNTY (Appendix B [in book]. The source of this account, in its earliest published version, is apparently Lyman C. Draper's KING'S MOUNTAIN AND ITS HEROES, 1881, photostats from which that relate to the rescue are also attached (as Appendix F [in book] as well as a few pages of supplementary material from John Preston Arthur's WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA: A HISTORY, 1730 - 1913 (which is Appendix E [in book]. This adds the tradition, preserved in the Greer family, that is was Ben Greer who fired the shot that killed Col. Ferguson at King's Mountain. Lyman Draper unfortunately does not cite his sources for his account which, although probably factual, was likely based on hearsay evidence and also, perhaps, papers of Col. Cleveland. Wilkes County Militia rosters do not survive, not are any original pay vouchers issued to Benjamin Greer extant. However proof that he did recieve payment for militia service is contained in the books of the North Carolina Treasurer and Comptroller, Revolutionary Army Accounts. In Book A of this series (Vol. 40, page 221) is recorded a payment in 1782 (?) Morgan District, which included Wilkes County, as follows: "0879. To Benjamine Greer for Service pr ditto -.16-." The ditto refers to the statement "for Service pr Pay Roll" a few lines above.
"The account of Benjamin's rescue of Col. Cleveland implies that he had moved his residence further west by 1781 to the South Fork of New River near the present Watauga - Wilkes border, and in the area where Joshua Greer later lived. First, on 24 January 1781 he entered a claim to 100 acres, apparently obtained from one Stringer, which was granted 9 July 1794 (#1121, photostat attached [in book]. Chain carriers for the survey, 20 January 1791, were his sons Wm. Greer and John Greer. This land is said to have been four miles above Cleveland's plantation at the "Old Field" where Gap Creek enters the South Fork. After the war Benjamin continued to increase his holdings here; on 16 July 1789 he entered a claim to 100 acres at his own line which was issued 9 July 1794 (Wilkes #1199, photostat attached [in book]. That he had actually moved his residence to this plantation is shown by the fact that he sold his Cub Creek land in 1790: "Wilkes County Deeds B-1:73): This Indenture made this Twenty seventh day of April ... 1790 Between Benjamin Greer of the ... County of Wilkes ... and Turner Hampton of the county ... aforesaid ... witnesseth that for ... one hundred pounds ... hath ... sold ... unto the sd Turner Hampton ... a certain tract of parcel of alnd containing two hundred acres Lying ... on the Waters of cub creek, Beginning on a post oak and red oak sapling on a flat in Francis Hardgrave line ... John Greers line by a Path ... (signed) Benjamin Greer ... Witness: Rowland Judd, Isaac Walker, Francis Hardgrave."
"Benjamine was a member of the Three Forks Baptist Church in Watauga from 1790 to 1800 (according to A HISTORY OF WATAUGA COUNTY) but had to leave the church in 1801 because of his intemperance