

Exerpt from

The Monuments at Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, North Carolina,
by Thomas E. Baker (1979)

Kerenhappuch Turner

Kerenhappuch Norman was born in central Virginia about 1733.

("Kerenhappuch" was the name of the third daughter of the Biblical figure, Job, and means "Horn of Beauty.") She was married to James Turner and moved to Maryland before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

One of Mrs. Turner's sons was badly wounded at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse. Mrs. Turner is said to have ridden on horseback from Maryland to Guilford Courthouse, where she found and nursed her injured son back to health.

There is an element of tragedy in this story. When Mrs. Turner began her ride south she carried an infant in her arms. Enroute the baby died. The grieving mother paused only long enough to bury the dead child by the roadside before hurrying on her way.

Mrs. Turner was related by marriage to the distinguished Morehead family of Guilford County. Two of her kinsmen, Major J.T. Morehead and Joseph Morehead, were instrumental in the drive to erect a monument to her memory.

The monument, completed in 1902, reads:

1781 1902
A HEROINE OF '76
MRS. KERENHAPPUCH TURNER
MOTHER OF ELIZABETH
THE WIFE OF JOSEPH
MOREHEAD OF N.C. AND
GRANDMOTHER OF CAPTAIN
JAMES AND OF JOHN MOREHEAD
A YOUNG N.C. SOLDIER UNDER
GREENE, RODE HORSE-BACK FROM
HER MARYLAND HOME AND AT
GUILFORD COURTHOUSE NURSED
TO HEALTH A BADLY WOUNDED SON.
ERECTED BY
J. TURNER AND JOS. MOTLEY
MOREHEAD