

in the house built by William Rochester in 1746.

on the plantation on which his father, grandfather and great-grandfather had lived. When he was two years old his father died, and when he was seven² his mother married a Mr. Thomas Critcher, who, in 1763, removed with the entire family to Granville County, North Carolina. "During his childhood the "opportunities for a liberal education were extremely limited. The varied and "practical information for which he was distinguished in private intercourse, as "well as in the public trusts he so honorably filled, was the fruit of the later "application of a clear and vigorous mind, in the intervals of leisure afforded by "a life of no ordinary activity and vicissitude."³

In the autumn of 1768, when sixteen years old, he entered the mercantile establishment of James Monroe, in Hillsboro', N. C. (forty miles from home), as a clerk, where he remained till 1773, when he entered into partnership with his former employer, ^{Monroe} and Col. John Hamilton, who was consul for the British Government in the Middle States after the close of the Revolution.

In 1770, he was Clerk of the Vestry of Hillsboro'.

In 1775, the partnership was dissolved by the breaking out of the Revolution, and the same year (being only twenty-three years old at the time) he was appointed a member of the Committee of Safety for Orange County, N. C., whose business it was, to use his own words, "To promote the revolutionary spirit among the people, procure arms and ammunition, make collections for the people of Boston, whose harbor was blocked up by a British fleet, and to prevent the sale and use of East India teas."

In August of the same year, 1775, he attended, as a member, the first Provincial Convention in North Carolina, and at that time was made paymaster (with the rank of Major) for the North Carolina line, which at the time consisted of four regiments. About the same time he was also made a Justice of the Peace.

At the re-assembling of the Convention, in May, 1776, the North Carolina line was increased to ten regiments; and in the proceedings of the Convention, on Friday, May 10, 1776, it was "*Resolved*, That Nathaniel Rochester, Esquire, "be appointed Deputy Commissary-General of Military and other stores in this "county for the use of the Continental Army, and that he be allowed the same