



# Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution

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## Thomas Sumter Symposium and Battlefield Tours

## Gen. Thomas Sumter by artist Werner Willis

“Campaigning with ‘The Gamecock’”, The Gen. Thomas Sumter Symposium and Battlefield Tours was held in Camden, SC on April 8-9-10, 2005. **Dr. Dan Morrill**, one of the best public speakers on the American Revolution, explained Sumter’s early Crown service in the French and Indian War, his trip to London with Lt. Henry Timberlake and three Cherokee chiefs, and service as a Continental line officer in the American Revolution, rising to command the SC 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of riflemen. Morrill explained how the frontier experience defined the character of men like Thomas Sumter, Daniel Boone and Abe Lincoln. **Dr. Jeff Dennis** of Morehead State University (Ky.) moderated the presenters’ panel and discussed his research on Thomas Sumter’s trek with the Timberlake Expedition to meet King George III in London and how the South Carolina founding fathers’ varied in their opinions on Native American policy. **Dr. Tom Powers** made an excellent presentation on the Gamecock as a militia and South Carolina State Troop Commandant. **Thomas Sumter Tisdale, Jr.** explained Sumter’s extensive post Revolutionary War activities as a family man, state and national political leader, and businessman. On Friday night at Historic Camden’s Kershaw-Cornwallis House we enjoyed a great “groaning board” (a feast of heavy hors d’oeuvres) and friendly discussion with Lord Cornwallis who had commandeered Col. Joseph Kershaw’s fine backcountry residence.

On Saturday, we visited the site of Gen. Sumter’s first victory at Hanging Rock with **Kip Carter** and his lovely home. We walked the site of the disappeared town of Rocky Mount, where Sumter’s organized his first attack on the British fort manned by the provincial Volunteers of New York. The beautiful hilltop by the Broad River where Sumter’s narrow escape from capture at Fish Dam Ford of the Broad River was toured with SC DOT archaeologist **Wayne Roberts**. We ended the Saturday tour at the site of Sumter’s defeat of Lt. Col. “Bloody Ban” Tarleton at Blackstock’s Plantation on the Tyger River guided by **Dr. Allan Charles** of USC Union. Saturday night we enjoyed dinner at the Kershaw-Cornwallis House with **Howard Burnham**’s premier of an original dramatic monologue, in the character of Thomas Sumter.

On Sunday morning, we visited Sumter’s final home site and tomb in Stateburg. Following Sumter’s “Dog Days of Summer” campaign, we walked in the majestic Biggin Church ruins which was burned by British Col. John Coates as he started his retreat towards Charles Town in 1781. We saw the site of the actions at Wadboo Bridge. After a quiet luncheon and presentation at the grave of President Henry Laurens at Mepkin Plantation (now Abbey) then visited Lt. Col. “Light Horse Harry” Lee’s attack on the retreating British Col. Coates at Quinby Creek Bridge. Under a clear blue sky we walked the avenue of oaks to the battlefield where Sumter’s career as a field commander ended at Shubrick’s Plantation where we visited Quinby Plantation’s extant Revolutionary War earthworks. We returned to a wonderful reception at the Sumter Museum and to view the Peale portrait of Thomas Sumter, the new miniature painting and other Thomas Sumter artifacts. ★



*Thomas Sumter - Carolina Gamecock of the American Revolution*

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## SUMTER

by James W. Simmons

When Carolina's hope grew pale,  
Before the British lion's tread,  
And freedom's sigh, in every gale,  
Was heard above her martyred dead, --

When from her mountain heights, subdued,  
In pride of place forbad to soar,  
Her eagle banner, quenched in blood,  
Lay sullen on th' indignant shore, --

Breathing revenge! invoking doom,  
Tyrant! upon thy purple host;  
When all stood wrapt in steadfast gloom,  
And silence brooded o'er her coast, --

Stealthy, as when from thicket dun,  
The Indian springs upon his bow,  
Uprose, South-Mount, thy warrior-son,  
And headlong darted on the foe!

Not in the pride of war he came,  
With bugle note and banner high,  
And nodding plume, and steel of flame,  
Red battle's gorgeous blazonry!

With followers few, but undismayed,  
Each change and chance of fate withstood,  
Beneath her sunshine and her shade  
The same heroic brotherhood!

From secret nook, in other land,  
Emerging fleet along the pine,  
Prone down he rush'd before his band,  
Like eagle, on the British line!

Catawba's waters smiled again,  
To see her Sumter's soul in arms;  
And, issuing from each glade and glen,  
Rekindled by war's fierce alarms,

Thronged hundreds thro' the solitude  
Of the wild forest, to the call  
Of him whose spirit, unsubdued,  
Fresh impulse gave to each, to all!

By day the burning sands they ply,  
Night sees them in the fell ravine;  
Familiar to each follower's eye,  
The tangled brake, the hall of green.

Roused by their tread from covert deep,  
Springs the gaunt wolf, and flies -- while near  
Is heard, forbidding thought of sleep,  
The rattling serpent's sound of fear.

Before, or break of early morn,  
Or fox looks out from copse or close,  
Before the hunter winds his horn,  
Sumter's already on his foes!

He beat them back! beneath the flame  
Of valor quailing, or the shock;  
And carved at length a hero's name  
Upon the glorious Hanging Rock!

And time that shades or sears the wreath  
Where glory binds the soldier's brow,  
Kept bright her Sumter's fame in death,  
His hour of proudest triumph -- now.

And ne'er shall tyrant tread the shore  
Where Sumter bled, nor bled in vain;  
A thousand hearts shall break before  
They wear th' oppressor's bonds again.

Oh! never can thy sons forget  
The mighty lessons taught by thee;  
Since, -- treasured up the eternal debt, --  
Their watchword is -- thy memory!

**James Wright Simmons (ca. 1790-1858)** was one of the founders of the *Southern Literary Gazette* in 1828. His work was published in America and in Europe. Poet, dramatist, essayist, and reviewer, Simmons had attended Harvard, traveled widely in Europe, and worked for the New York *Mirror* and the New York *Courier* before moving to Texas. He became comptroller general of the Republic of Texas and worked on the *Banner* newspaper in Galveston, Texas. ★

## It Wasn't in Louisa

A research note on Thomas Sumter's birthplace

by **Thomas Lynwood Powers**  
University of South Carolina Sumter

Robert Bass begins his story of Thomas Sumter's life with an account of his birth in the summer of 1734 "in the Preddy's Creek settlement of Louisa County, Virginia."<sup>1</sup> That sentence has been quoted time and again in speeches, in print, and on websites<sup>2</sup>. Many other writers and speakers have followed his lead, often noting that Preddy's Creek was in Hanover County at the time of Sumter's birth, but is in Louisa today. (Those who attended the symposium on Thomas Sumter in Camden in May of 2005 may recall that actor/playwright Howard Burnham's portrayal of the general made the same claim.) Often, they will throw in other landmarks of the region: the North Fork of the Rivanna River (where Sumter's father built a mill and into which Preddy's Creek flows), Piney Mountain, the Southwest Mountains, the towns of Barboursville and Charlottesville.

It is fairly easy to locate this region on a map. Charlottesville, Barboursville, Piney Mountain, the Rivanna River, and Preddy's Creek (now also called "Preddy Creek" and "Priddy's Creek" on modern maps, though a nearby church is still called "Preddy's Creek Baptist Church") are still there. So is the main road between Charlottesville and Barboursville, now Virginia Route 20.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Robert D. Bass, *Gamecock: The Life and Campaigns of General Thomas Sumter*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1961, p. 5.

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, "The Gamecock General: Thomas Sumter" on the "Rootsweb" site at [Hhttp://www.rootsweb.com/~scsumter/thomassumter.html](http://www.rootsweb.com/~scsumter/thomassumter.html) (accessed April 29, 2005). There are many others.

<sup>3</sup> A good place to view this in a reasonable level of detail is [Hhttp://www.topopzone.com](http://www.topopzone.com). To get locate the area, go to that website, type "Three Forks" and "VA" into the search boxes on the home page, then select the map for Albemarle County, Virginia. Three Forks, where Marshall Creek enters Preddy Creek, is a good beginning location for exploring the area. From there, expand the map to "large" and change the scale to 1:50,000 or 1:100,000 and look over this and adjacent areas using the arrows in the borders of the map. As Topozone is set by default to show the Universal

The exact location of the cabin in which Sumter was born is still unknown. Bass includes in his book a map purporting to show the site, but the map is a very rough one, and its geographic features do not accord closely with those found on modern topographic maps<sup>4</sup>. Anne King Gregorie's biography is vague on this point, citing sources which appear, but do not specifically claim, to place Sumter's home somewhere in Louisa or on the "banks of the Rapidan" (which is not even in the Preddy Creek region).<sup>5</sup> The Commonwealth of Virginia has erected a historical marker to Thomas Sumter on the southeast side of the Southwest Mountains, closer to Gordonsville than to Barboursville. This seems a strange place to put it, as Preddy Creek, Piney Mountain, the Rivanna River, and all other landmarks mentioned as being near the birthplace are on the northwestern side of those mountains. To be sure, the Commonwealth makes but a modest claim to accuracy here, stating on its marker only that Sumter was born "in this region."<sup>6</sup> But taking all sources together, weighing them against one another, and comparing them all to modern topographic maps, it is clear that Sumter was a native of the region between Charlottesville, Barboursville, Piney Mountain, and the Southwest Mountains.

**And this area is not in Louisa County, it is in Albemarle County.**

Like most states, though not so much like South Carolina at the time, Virginia in the late colonial period was marked by meaningful local government as well as by continuing migrations westward. As populations grew in the westernmost parts of the westernmost counties, new counties would be formed to accommodate their needs. Typically, these new counties would be formed by detaching a section from an existing county. And so it was that Hanover County was carved out of the western reaches of New Kent County in 1720<sup>7</sup>. The new county reached from just

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Transverse Mercator system of location, it is easiest to stick with that here. Three Forks is at UTM 17 732086E 4226298N (WGS84/NAD83). Piney Mountain is at UTM 17 726242E 4228966N (WGS84/NAD83). Preddy Creek enters the North Fork of the Rivanna River at UTM 17 728302E 4224016N (WGS84/NAD83). See reference to the church at

[Hhttp://www.centvaassociation.org/directory/preddyscrk.html](http://www.centvaassociation.org/directory/preddyscrk.html)H (accessed April 27, 2005.) The address given for the church's present location is 4394 Stony Point Road, Barboursville. The church appears on the Topozone map at UTM 17 732712E 4222167N (WGS84/NAD83). Barboursville, in adjacent Orange County, is at UTM 17 738300E 4228095N (WGS84/NAD83).

<sup>4</sup> See Bass, *Gamecock*, p. 6, and compare to the Topozone maps cited above. Bass appears to place the birthsite on the banks of Marshall Creek near UTM 17 732914E 4226082N (WGS84/NAD83), but his placements of streams, roads, and the Preddy's Creek Church are so inexact that it is difficult to be certain of this.

<sup>5</sup> Anne King Gregorie, *Thomas Sumter*. Columbia, SC: The R.L. Bryan Company, 1931, pp. 3-5.

<sup>6</sup> "Commonwealth of Virginia Historical Markers" at [Hhttp://photos.historical-markers.org/va-albemarle/141\\_4192](http://photos.historical-markers.org/va-albemarle/141_4192)H (accessed April 26, 2005). Elsewhere on this site, the marker is described as being 0.91 miles southwest of the Orange County – Louisa County line on Virginia Rt. 231. For those using Topozone maps, the marker is located around UTM 17 743671E 4223143N. (WGS84/NAD83).

<sup>7</sup> The legislation creating the county was passed in 1720, but went into effect in 1721. For a quick overview of the history of the formation of Virginia counties, including a very nice sketch map showing the dates and sources of each, see "County Formation Maps"

([Hhttp://www.segenealogy.com/virginia/va\\_maps/va\\_cf.htm](http://www.segenealogy.com/virginia/va_maps/va_cf.htm)H) under "Virginia County Facts and Information" at [Hhttp://www.segenealogy.com/virginia/index.htm](http://www.segenealogy.com/virginia/index.htm)H (accessed

northeast of Richmond to the Blue Ridge Mountains, and included the lands around Preddy's Creek.

When Sumter was born, in the summer of 1734, the region of his birth, as described above, was in Hanover County.

In 1742, the western portion of Hanover County, including the Preddy's Creek region, was detached to form Louisa County.<sup>8</sup> Thomas Sumter, by this point a young child, now lived in Louisa County.

**So far, so familiar.**

But in 1761, the westernmost portion of Louisa County was carved off, not to form a new county, but to be transferred to Albemarle County to the immediate south and southwest.<sup>9</sup> There it remains to this day.<sup>10</sup> Anyone who goes looking for Thomas Sumter's birthplace in Louisa won't find it there.

But Thomas Sumter himself, and therefore those who rely on accounts traceable to him, can be forgiven for not taking note of this. He did live in Louisa as he grew to young manhood and then when he left his homeland behind. By 1761, when the region was transferred to Albemarle, he no longer lived there. By then, he was on active duty in the French and Indian War, and soon after was on his famous journey with Henry Timberlake (also from Hanover County, Virginia) to Cherokee Country, England, South Carolina, and fame.

So perhaps Howard Burnham got it right after all. As far as the General himself may have known, Preddy's Creek remained in Louisa. But those who would like to tell his story today, other than in the first person, need to mark his birth in today's Albemarle County, Virginia.



**On the podium at the historic Robert Mills-designed Kershaw District Courthouse in Camden, SC, Sumter scholar, Dr. Jeffrey W. Dennis, Associate Professor of History at Morehead State University, Kentucky moderates the presenters' panel discussions with Thomas Sumter Tisdale, Jr. and Dr. Thomas Powers, Professor of History at USC Sumter. In addition to Jeff's research on South Carolina Native American policy during the Revolutionary War, he is also researching SC Militia Gen. Andrew Pickens.**

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April 18, 2005). This is part of the Southeastern Genealogy website ([Hhttp://www.segenealogy.com](http://www.segenealogy.com)H).

<sup>8</sup> See the "County Formation Map" for 1742 at

[Hhttp://www.segenealogy.com/virginia/va\\_maps/va\\_cf.htm](http://www.segenealogy.com/virginia/va_maps/va_cf.htm)H.

<sup>9</sup> For an easy visual insight, go to the "County Formation Map" for 1759 at

[Hhttp://www.segenealogy.com/virginia/va\\_maps/va\\_cf.htm](http://www.segenealogy.com/virginia/va_maps/va_cf.htm)H,

then click "next" to get to the 1761 map. Click back and forth between them for a few times to get a good sense of the change.

<sup>10</sup> County lines are marked on Topozone and other maps. ★



Mike Coker, image archivist with the South Carolina Historical Society, shows the Society's Revolutionary War image collection to Ned Sloan.



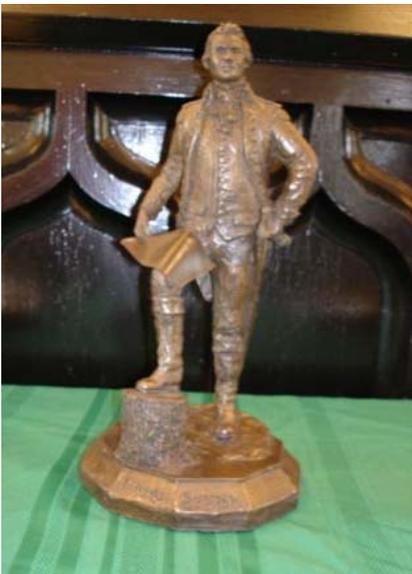
Presenter Dr. Tom Powers talks with Clarence Felder during a break.



Thomas Sumter descendent and author, Tom Tisdale talks with Dr. Malcolm Marion, John Allison and Chris Weatherhead.



Postcard of Gen. Thomas Sumter's Tomb at Home House, Stateburg, SC. Natalie deLage Sumter, a devoted Roman Catholic, was buried in the red brick chapel in the background. These tombs are now under South Carolina state parks management and are open to the public daily.



Sculptor Miriah Kirby Smith's model of Gen. Thomas Sumter bronze statue on the Sumter County Court House grounds in Sumter, SC. Photo by Jane Massey.

While researching Thomas Sumter on the Internet, Tom Powers came across this genealogical information on Thomas Sumter's parents and siblings. Descendants of William Sumpter:

Generation No. 1

**William1 Sumpter** was born August 18, 1695 in Histon, Cambridge, Eng., and died July 07, 1752 in Louisa, VA. He married **Elizabeth Patience Iveson** on June 18, 1728 in Histon, Cambridgeshire, England. Children of **William Sumpter** and **Elizabeth Iveson** are:

1. **Ann2 Sumpter.**
2. **Capt. William Sumpter**, born on October 29, 1731 in Hanover Co., VA; died October 23, 1820 in Burke Co., NC.
3. **Gen. Thomas Sumter**, born on August 14, 1734 in Hanover Co., VA; died 1832 in Stateburg, SC.
4. **Patience Sumpter**, born 1736 in VA; died 1805 in VA.
5. **Edmund Sumpter**, born 1738.
6. **John Sumpter**, born 1740 in VA; died about 1786 in NC.

(<http://members.aol.com/CHUICY/sumpter.html>)

I do not remember seeing this kind of definite statement about Sumter's parents before. There is no footnote on this evidence. Has anyone to seen any substantiation on this genealogical reference? **Dr. Thomas L. Powers**, USC Sumter - email [tpowers@uscsu.edu](mailto:tpowers@uscsu.edu) ★

# An account of Thomas Sumter's life from 1782 until his death in 1832

By Thomas Sumter Tisdale, Jr.

## I. The Scene, 1782.

As the year began, Thomas Sumter was 47 years old; with more than 50 years of his life yet to be lived. He and his wife, Mary Canteley Sumter, had one child, a son, Thomas Sumter, Jr., now age 13, who was born on August 30, 1768. Another child, a daughter named Mary, born on May 16, 1771, died before reaching adulthood. The date of her death is unknown.

With the war winding down, the time had come for South Carolinians to plan for the future without the British colonial government that had endured for more than a hundred years. In January, a General Assembly was organized at Jacksonboro, in Colleton County. Thomas Sumter was a member of the Senate in the Jacksonboro Assembly, and represented an area around the Santee River. The House of Representatives included many of the officers who had served in Sumter's Brigade. The members included Andrew Pickens and William Henderson who had been general officers; and former colonels were Thomas Brandon Wade, Richard Hampton, William Hill, Edward Lacey, James Lyles, John Thomas, and Richard Winn. Sumter himself moved from the Senate to the House in the summer of 1782.

When the war ended, the Gamecock resigned his commission as Brigadier General of State Troops and retired to his home on Great Savannah near Nelson's Ferry and began a career as a planter.

The fighting had not ended. Fort Dorchester, near Summerville, was captured by American troops on April 21, 1782 extending the American battlefield successes that reached a zenith at Yorktown the previous October. Henry Laurens lost his life in an engagement at the Bluff Plantation on August 27 of that year. Sumter's future daughter-in-law, Natalie Delage, was born in France on October 28. In the fall and early winter, her grandfather, Admiral le marquis d'Amblimont commanded a squadron of French warships in the waters of the northeast, engaging the remnants of the British fleet in places like Boston and Nantucket, and driving them out of the territorial waters of the United States. The last recorded combat of the war in South Carolina occurred at Dill's Bluff on James Island in Charleston County on November 14. The British evacuated Charleston a month later on December 14, 1782 essentially bringing the revolutionary struggle to an end in the state.

It was against this backdrop of recent history that Thomas Sumter began the next 50 years of his life as the head of his family, and as a prolific politician, landowner, planter, and businessman.

## II. Post war participation in local politics.

General Sumter was present when the General Assembly convened at the Exchange Building in Charleston in January 1783; and he was a member of that body continually until the shortly after the ratification of the United States Constitution on May 23, 1788. He was elected to be a delegate to the Continental Congress on February 15, 1783, but declined to serve for unspecified reasons.

There were many important issues that required the attention of the Assembly as the country was taking shape in the light of its new independence. Some of the critical issues that faced the people of the state would affect Sumter personally. When the war ended, the government was faced with the issue of how to deal with the Tories or loyalists who wanted compensation for property that they claimed had been unjustly taken from them during the war. Sumter was directly involved in the issue. His troops, known as State Troops, operating under a concept that became known as Sumter's Law, plundered property from Tories for use in the war effort against the British. He was subjected to criticism for engaging in such a practice; and the reaction against it is easier to understand when one considers that the war, particularly in South Carolina, was really a sort of civil war in which there was often strong support for the view opposing independence from the crown. The practice was a forerunner of the constitutionally mandated doctrine of eminent domain by which property of citizens could be taken for public use as long as just compensation was paid to the owner for the confiscated property. Property taken by the State Troops from the loyalists was generally used for public purposes, that is, for the prosecution of the war, but that would not have been the case if the Americans had not prevailed. Compensation was not paid to the owners of the property taken during the war. So, the General Assembly wrestled with a disposition of these claims until as late as 1794.

The Assembly on February 26, 1783, before settling the questions about the propriety of the conduct of the troops operating under Sumter's Law, awarded gold medals as the highest distinction and honor that could be awarded by the state for service in the war to Generals Sumter, Marion, Pickens, and Huger. But the award to Sumter was made with some reluctance pending a satisfactory resolution of the dispute about his conduct with respect to the questions

about the methods used to confiscate personal property for the war effort.

Sumter and his troops were ultimately vindicated by the Assembly. On March 21, 1784, a resolution was adopted by the Assembly that absolved them from all wrongdoing and liability for their conduct with respect to the seizure of property of citizens for use in the war. It stated: "...that General Sumter be considered as having acted with Honorable and upright Views, and highly meriting the approbation of his Country, and that an Ordinance be passed indemnifying him and the Officers associating and always acting under his Command, but not those who detached themselves upon Several Occasions and plundered the Inhabitants indiscriminately without his Knowledge or Authority." The Assembly adopted a law adopted to handle the claims, and it provided that those whose property had been confiscated could apply to the State for just compensation.

## III. A leader in business and industry.

Of great concern to General Sumter, was the location of the state capital. With rapid population growth and an expansion westward into the backcountry, it became a foregone conclusion that the state capital should be moved to a place that was more centrally located than Charleston. The issue was ripe for decision in 1786, three years after Sumter had formed the Stateburg Land Company and laid out a plan for the town of Stateburg. The name of the town was presumably chosen by him to make it more attractive as a place for the new state capital to be located. The High Hills, where he decided to develop the town, had been settled in 1750 by a group of people migrating south from Virginia. The area, then and now, is one of beautiful hills rising from the eastern bank of the Wateree River through which ran the King's Highway. Sumter made it the seat of Claremont County when he was a commissioner of the Assembly appointed to lay out county lines in the old Camden District. By the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Stateburg had a courthouse, jail, Episcopal Church, school, library, about 12 houses, and four or five shops. Richard Furman, whose name was given to Furman University, established the High Hills Baptist Church in the community, a landmark that is there today. It seemed to be an ideal place for the new capital, and its selection would enhance the commercial plan Sumter had in mind for the town. But on March 20, 1786 it was decided, following a contentious debate, that the capital would be moved to Columbia, a new town on the banks of the Congaree River, about 30 miles west of Stateburg. (My great-grandfather, writing in *Stateburg and Its People*, says that if the capital had been established in Stateburg and not Columbia, Sherman and the Union troops under his command would not have been able to

destroy the captial city during Civil War as he did Columbia because he would not have been able to cross the Wateree River and its swamp to get there.)

The growth of population in the backcountry, away from the coast, led to plans to improve the inland transportation system for people and commerce. Sumter was involved in the creation of two commercial enterprises to develop waterways throughout the state. He joined William Moultrie and John Rutledge in 1786 to form The Company for the Inland Navigation from the Santee to the Cooper River; and the next year formed a group of investors to establish a Company for Opening the Navigation of the Catawba and Wateree Rivers develop a plan to connect the port at Charleston with the west, perhaps as far as Tennessee.

During the war, Sumter learned that there were large tracts of unclaimed land in the backcountry. After the war, beginning in 1784, he began to make applications to the state for land grants. He obtained grants for about 115,000 acres in the Camden District, and almost 20,000 acres between Camden and Lynchers River, including one for 22,744 that is represented by a document that registered the grant with the federal government, certifying the state grant. He later obtained another 28,000 acres in smaller tracts throughout the area. His son, Thomas Sumter, Jr., applied for and received a grant in 1793 for 96,000 acres in the Cheraws in northwest South Carolina and North Carolina.

The region developed a strong slave-based agricultural economy following the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whitney in 1793. The invention led to a great change in the region's economy. The state's cotton production increased from less than 100,000 pounds in 1790 to more than 20 million pounds by the turn of the century. As the new nation developed its basic economic infrastructure, large amounts of debt was commonplace in the years after the end of the war. Sumter, like Robert Morris and Thomas Jefferson, amassed great debt that was a constant problem for the family for generations to come. Economic problems were widespread. Paper money was scarce throughout the region. The Assembly enacted several pieces of legislation to try to relieve economic hardship suffered by both debtors and creditors. The Sumter family, although rich in land ownership, struggled to avoid financial ruin for many years following the Revolution.

Anne King Gregorie, in her biography *Thomas Sumter*, described his activities after the war this way, "In the eight years since the close of his career in the Revolution he had been active as the promoter of a town, two land companies, and the cotton and tobacco industries; and in addition to multifarious public and private activities he had acquired title to more than

100,000 acres of land for speculative purposes."

#### IV. On the nation's political stage.

The Constitutional Convention convened in Philadelphia in 1787. South Carolina was represented by Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Charles Pinckney, Pierce Butler, and John Rutledge. The Convention delegates drafted a proposed constitution that was transmitted to each of the states for consideration with the request that it be ratified by them. In South Carolina, Governor Thomas Pinckney sent the document to the General Assembly in early January, 1788 with a message asking, that it be considered by the legislative body. Sumter was appointed to the committee to recommend a method for the state to consider the proposed constitution and to decide whether or not to ratify it. The proposed constitution was read to the Assembly on January 16, 1788, followed by three days of debate on the document and how the state should deal with it. Sumter's committee recommended to the Assembly that a constitutional convention be called to consider the proposal. Many members of the Assembly, mostly those representing the Backcountry, wanted the convention to be held somewhere other than Charleston. Camden was suggested as an appropriate site for it. After a hot debate on the venue issue, Charleston won by a vote of 76 to 75, but the closeness of the vote was another indication of the emerging political strength of the inland areas of the state.

The state constitutional convention met at City Hall in Charleston on May 12, 1788. Thomas Sumter was one of the nine delegates representing Clarendon County. Sumter was opposed to ratification and accordingly voted against it. Much of his opposition stemmed from the Jeffersonian principles that he now espoused. Jefferson, although not a member of the convention in Philadelphia because he was serving on a diplomatic mission in France when it met, expressed grave doubts about the proposed constitution. He thought that a national government was needed only for the conduct of foreign affairs, and that all other governmental functions should be conducted by the states. But he finally acceded, and agreed to support it when the first ten amendments, the Bill of Rights, guaranteeing personal freedoms and liberties, were agreed to by the framers. Sumter's more specific objections to the constitution were that: (1) the states would not be allowed to print and issue currency, something he personally sorely needed; (2) slave imports would not be allowed after 1808, a prohibition he thought would damage the southern economy; and (3) the president would be allowed to serve more than one term, a provision that he believed would encourage a drift toward a monarchical

form of government. As a delaying tactic to strengthen the general opposition to the proposed constitution, he sought to have consideration of it postponed until October, 1788, after it had been considered by Virginia where he thought it might be rejected. The constitution was nevertheless ratified by the convention on May 23, 1788 by a vote of 149 to 73 with Sumter voting with the minority.

Thomas Sumter was elected to a seat in the House of Representatives in the first Congress of the United States that met in New York. He took his seat on May 25, 1789 as the last of the South Carolina delegation to arrive for the session, and missed the inauguration of President Washington on April 30. The other members from the state were Aedanus Burke, Daniel Huger, William Smith and Thomas Tudor Tucker. Sumter made his first speech in the House on June 8 during the debate on constitutional amendments.

Some of the other issues considered by the first congress were: (1) appropriations for Indian treaties, (2) the structure of the federal judiciary, (3) the permanent location of the seat of the national government, (4) national financial issues, and (5) particularly relevant to South Carolina, what to do about redeeming General Nathanael Greene's estate from the claims of creditors.

Sumter was elected to each of the succeeding Congresses, except the third one, until he became a member of the Senate in 1801. In 1793, he was defeated by Richard Winn of Fairfield. Winn had been a colonel in the state militia, and after the war he was appointed a brigadier general in the militia. The town of Winnsboro is named for him. In 1793, he ran against Sumter on the issue of Sumter's involvement in activities to acquire continental indentures at a fraction of the face value and then getting the government to redeem them at face value thereby garnering considerable profits on the transactions. He was often Sumter's political opponent, but prevailed only on the one occasion in 1793, and he lost the other races by margins of about two to one.

By 1797, Sumter had become a solid Jeffersonian Republican, and organized support in South Carolina for Jefferson in the election of 1799. Jefferson became president on March 4, 1801 after a contentious battle in the House of Representatives following a tie vote with John Adams in the Electoral College during which Aaron Burr, Jefferson's running mate, was almost elected president.

The seat of the federal government had been established in Washington by the time of Jefferson's inauguration. The place in South Carolina where Sumter lived was now the Sumter District, and the town of Sumterville, now the City of Sumter 12 miles from Stateburg, had been founded. Jefferson appointed Thomas Sumter, Jr. to a

prestigious diplomatic position as secretary to the Legation to France that was sent to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase.

Early in the Jefferson administration, Senator Charles Pinckney of South Carolina was appointed ambassador to Spain leaving a vacant seat in the Senate. While on his way to the sixth Congress, and without any solicitation by him, Sumter was elected to the vacant Senate seat by the General Assembly of South Carolina. He was informed about his election to the Senate seat when he arrived in the capital city, and he took his seat on December 19, 1801 at age 67.

Sumter was a strong member of the Senate, and a member of several important committees. Although a Jeffersonian to the core, his service reflected the independent iron will that was his hallmark during the Revolution. John Adams wrote in his personal diary that Thomas Sumter was one of the few members of the Senate with the strength of purpose to oppose the will of Jefferson when he believed matters of principle were involved in the issue under consideration. His last recorded vote in the Senate was cast on May 1, 1810 at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congress. He resigned his seat in the Senate that year due to ill health at age 76, but lived on in retirement in the High Hills of the Santee for another 21 years.

Thomas Sumter, Jr. was elected Lieutenant Governor of the State in 1804, but declined the election. Senator Sumter dominated South Carolina politics as a Jeffersonian during the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the Sumter family was a powerful force on the South Carolina political scene until the time of the Civil War.

#### V. Life at home with family and friends after years of war and politics.

Thomas Sumter, Jr. returned to the High Hills from the diplomatic mission to France in late 1803 with a wife and baby. He and Natalie Delage were married in 1802 in Paris after a celebrated shipboard romance developed on the voyage to France in 1801. The General gave them Home House, a family plantation near the village of Stateburg. Two other children, William and Louisa, were raised in the General's and Mary's house at Stateburg. They were illegitimate children of Thomas Sumter, Jr. from liaisons sometime before 1801. The identity of their mother or mothers is unknown. They were raised as members of the General's household and family. Louisa married James Murrell and they had three children. One of them, Thomas Sumter Murrell, who died in his youth, is buried in the yard of the Church of the Holy Cross at Stateburg. Louisa died on January 5, 1878. William Sumter graduated from West Point

on January 3, 1812 and had a distinguished military career as an officer in the Army. He participated in the War of 1812, as an officer on the frontier, and at the capture of Fort George on May 27, 1818, and attained the rank of Captain before returning to South Carolina to study law. He became a member of the Bar in South Carolina, and assisted his grandfather in many complex legal entanglements that arose from his business dealings. William committed suicide in 1826 for reasons that are not known. There is speculation that he was burdened and depressed by heavy debt or by the knowledge and burden of his illegitimacy.

Thomas Sumter, Jr. was appointed ambassador to Portugal by President Madison in 1809. He and his family lived in Rio de Janeiro where the court of Portugal was seated during the Napoleonic Wars in Europe. Mary Cantez Sumter died at age 94 on October 24, 1817 while the young Sumters were in Brazil. Her body was the first one buried in a family plot at Home House. At the time of her death, she and the General were living at Bradford Springs. Shortly after Mary's death, the General moved to South Mount, near Boykin Mill.

The General lived his last years quietly and peacefully, and in generally good health, in the High Hills. He did not actively engage in political life after his retirement from the Senate, but was called upon occasionally to express himself on issues related to the long brewing nullification controversy, a controversy that outlived him by many years and ultimately led to the Civil War. He viewed the issue as one of states rights, and thought that the states should be able to protect themselves by nullifying national laws that worked against their well-being. He disapproved of the economically unacceptable tariffs that were imposed on exports to the benefit of northern states and to the detriment of southern states. He wrote a letter to a newspaper in Pendleton, South Carolina in October, 1831 expressing his views on nullification in which he called upon the people, "to endeavor to change a system of usurpation that is no longer in harmony with the spirit of our constitution."

The General died at South Mount on June 1, 1832, the day after, family legend says, riding his horse for 12 miles with his grandson, Paul Thomas Delage Sumter, himself later a member of Congress from this district. The story is told that on the day of his death he walked in his yard preparing for another horseback ride with his grandson, pruned his peach trees, and then sat in his rocking chair on his porch and died peacefully. Some historians say he was the last surviving general of the American Revolution. He was, except for Lafayette who died two years later.

The body of Thomas Sumter was laid to rest in the family burial ground at Home House. It is now a state park. A large granite monument honoring him was put near

his grave by the General Assembly on his birthday in 1907. On one of the four sides of the monument is a Latin inscription with the words *Tanto Nomini Nullum Par Elogium*, that is: so great a name needs no eulogy.

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#### Thomas S. Tisdale, Jr.

Tom Tisdale is an attorney in the firm Nexsen, Pruet Adams Kleemeier, PLLC.'s Charleston, SC office. He is the author of *A Lady of the High Hills*, a history of Natalie Delage Sumter, the French noble born wife of Thomas Sumter, Jr., was published by USC Press in October 2001.

A former president of the South Carolina Bar, he was also president of the Charleston Lawyers Club and a member of the Supreme Court Commissions on Grievances and Discipline and Continuing Lawyer Competency, the South Carolina Law Institute, and the CPR Institute for Dispute Resolution.

Mr. Tisdale has served on the Board of Regents of the University of the South and the Board of Trustees of Voorhees College; as chairman of the Board of Trustees of Porter-Gaud School; and on the boards of the South Carolina Aquarium and Charleston's Spoleto Festival USA. He was also chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina from 1975-1985.

Mr. Tisdale earned his undergraduate degree from the University of the South and his J.D. from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He presented this paper on Thomas Sumter at the 2005 Thomas Sumter Symposium in Camden, SC.

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## Editor's Notes

As the British renewed their strategy to reconquer their rebellious colonies in the Southern Department in December 1778, Southern Campaigns fans will be treated to many 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary events in the next two years. Reenactments, memorial services, scholarly conclaves, and tours are now being planned and scheduled. We will keep you informed with a list of events and contacts for which we need your help. Please submit your scheduled events and contact information. Southern campaigns sites at Charleston, SC and Lancaster County, SC for Buford's Massacre at the Waxhaws (May 2005), Beckhamville, SC and Ramseur's Mill, NC (June 2005), Brattonville, SC (July 2005), Camden, SC (August 2005), Kings Mountain, SC (October 2005) and Camden, SC (November 2005) are presenting major 225<sup>th</sup> Southern Campaign anniversary events.

Now that the Thomas Sumter Symposium is on the record, I have been asked, "what's next"? Besides the ongoing research and publication of the SCAR newsletter, SCAR plans to organize a Revolutionary War roundtable, loosely modeled on the successful New York and Philadelphia Revolutionary War Roundtables and the many Civil War roundtables. SCAR will also work with Historic Camden to plan a major symposium on Gen. Nathanael Greene for spring 2006 in conjunction with the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill. Your thoughts and input on both projects are invited.

Several non-profit organizations and governmental agencies are now working on protecting several non-protected important Palmetto State Revolutionary War sites. The successful non-governmental organization (NGO), the Katawba Valley Land Trust of Lancaster, SC ([www.kvlt.org](http://www.kvlt.org)) has announced a major project to seek historical conservation easements from property owners in the Hanging Rock battlefields area. SCAR has learned that the State of South Carolina is negotiating to purchase another important battlefield. We will announce this milestone acquisition as soon as the property purchase is final. Battlefield preservation is usually initiated and lead by local groups. Have you worked on locating, preserving, and marking your favorite

Revolutionary War cultural treasure? Your help is critical as we have irrevocably lost many of the Revolutionary War battlefields' historic context by over-development such as Hobkirk Hill, much of Eutaw Springs and Stono Ferry, all of Charleston, Augusta, Granby, Charlotte, and Savannah, some of Guilford's Courthouse, and most of Ramseur's Mill and Cowan's Ford. Spreading on the ground knowledge is the most powerful force we have to build public awareness and influence to encourage protective uses of these sites entrusted to our generation. **Please help us pry site information from the dusty archive files, the archaeology departments, and knowledge base of local historians, property owners and collectors.** We have over 230 Revolutionary War battle and skirmish sites to document in South Carolina alone. We need your help! Even the over-built sites can still be appropriately marked and interpreted.

SCAR has been requested to layout the newsletter with a wider binding margin on the left. We will give it a try. Again we must reiterate that this is not Charles Baxley's newsletter; it is a shared open forum for all fellow cohorts – rebel or loyalist partisans alike. Your input, criticism, contribution, and assistance are needed and appreciated.

**Your contributions of money and articles, and my "real" job may continue to allow a monthly publication schedule. There is no subscription or fee at this time. We solicit your voluntary contributions in proportion to your evaluation of the product. An email notice and web-based distribution of the SCAR Newsletter has ameliorated some of my printing and mailing costs. SCAR remains glad to print and mail a copy to anybody without access to high-speed Internet service; electronic publication allows us to use better color graphics and save printing and postage costs. We email our list when the new edition of SCAR has been posted so you may review, download, and print the current and previous newsletters from our website at [www.southerncampaign.org](http://www.southerncampaign.org). Please let us know your email address and preferred medium.** To improve the publication, better maps and graphics are

desirable and a volunteer with layout experience would be great.

Please send any names, addresses and email contacts of persons you know who are interested in sharing our study of the Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution and we will add them to our list. ★

## Letters to the Editor

Mr. Baxley:

I am a senior at Erskine College, and I am finishing a BA in History. My advisor, Dr. James Gettys, passed my name along to your mailing list and I have been receiving the journal since day one. I wanted to pass along my email address so that I may continue to receive the journal electronically.

You may also be excited to know that I may possibly be the first person to ever cite the journal in an academic paper. My senior thesis was centered on Banastre Tarleton and the effect that his reputation had upon the campaigns of the backcountry. My research led me to be somewhat sympathetic to Tarleton. I cited an article from the second journal in the thesis.

Thank you for your dedication to this area of history.

Sincerely, David Dangerfield ★

## Front-page Art available

SCAR artist Werner Willis has made available prints of Gen. Thomas Sumter, signed and numbered in limited edition, printed on 8" by 10" art print stock. They are available from the artist for \$20.00 each.

Additionally, in the **Commanders & Heroes of the American Revolution** collector series are Willis' impressions of Lt. Gen. Charles Cornwallis, Brigadier Gen. Daniel Morgan, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton, Col. William Washington, and Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene. Signed and numbered limited edition prints are also available from the artist, printed on 12" by 9 7/8" art print stock for \$20.00 each.

Werner Willis  
3927 Brookwood Road  
Charlotte, NC 28215  
(704) 509-2877

## Thomas Sumter Timeline

by William T. Graves, David P. Reuwer and Charles B. Baxley

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
August 14, 1734  1740s 1755	Thomas Sumter born on Preddy's Creek in the portion of Hanover County, Virginia that became part of Louisa County when it was formed in 1742, but now Albemarle County. His parents were William and Patience Sumter. His father was a miller and mother was a mid-wife. Educated in common schools; worked in father's mill, cared for mother's sheep, and plowed fields. Present at Edward Braddock's expedition and defeat.
1757 +/-  1758	Sumter is said to have enlisted as a private in the Virginia militia under Colonel Zachariah Burnley during the French and Indian War. Present with John Forbes in the expedition at Fort Duquesne.
1761	Sumter serves in the Virginia militia under Colonel Adam Stephen in the invasion of Cherokee country. Borrows money and accompanies Lt. Henry Timberlake home with Cherokee Chiefs to trade. Loses trade goods in river.
May 1762	Sumter, a sergeant in the Virginia militia, serves in the entourage of Lt. Henry Timberlake to escort 3 Cherokee chiefs on their visit to the Court of St. James and meeting with the newly crowned King George III.
October 28, 1762  November 1763	Entourage returns from England via Charles Town and Sumter accompanies the 3 Cherokees to their village at the headwaters of the Savannah River. Sumter committed to Staunton, Virginia jail for unpaid debts.
1764-1765  1766	Sumter immigrates to South Carolina from Virginia. He settles on Horse Creek near the Santee River three miles from Nelson's Ferry. He opens a store at the Nelson's Ferry Road and Congaree River Road forks south of Nelson's Ferry as a merchant and slave owner in St. John's Parish. Purchases 200-acre plantation on south side of the Santee River.
1767	Sumter marries Mary Cantey, widow of William Jamison, who left his wife half of his substantial estate; moves to her plantation. He builds mills on Jack's Creek.
August 30, 1768 1773-1774	Mary C. Sumter gives birth to the couple's only child to survive to adulthood, Thomas Sumter, Jr. Serves on grand jury at Camden. Serves as justice of the peace.
December 1774  Jan 11 – 17, 1775	Sumter selected as a member of the First Provincial Congress representing the region then called the District Eastward of the Wateree. As a delegate: read, approved and published the American Bill of Rights; carried into effect the Continental Association's non-importation agreements.
August 1775	Sumter commissioned as a Patriot SC militia captain of Kirkland's company of mounted rangers by the Drayton/Tennent/Hart commission. Sumter elected as a member of the Second Provincial Congress and added to Committee on the State of the Colony.
Nov.-Dec. 1775	Sumter serves as a Captain under Col. William Thomson during the " <b>Snow Campaign</b> " against the Cherokees.
February 29, 1776	Sumter elected as Lt. Col. to command SC militia rifle regiment to be raised and that would later be known as the Sixth Regiment, William Henderson, major.
Spring 1776 April 1776	Sumter recruits his regiment largely from the Waxhaws near Catawba Indian territory As delegate: adopts second of American state constitutions and resolves into General Assembly.
June 28, 1776	Sumter, under the command of Col. William Thomson, participates in the <b>defense of Charles Town</b> and the <b>Battle of Breach Inlet</b> on Sullivan's Island against Lord Cornwallis.
Late Summer 1776 September 20, 1776	Sumter participates in the <b>Cherokee Campaign</b> led by Major Andrew Williamson The Second Provisional Congress places Sumter's regiment, along with other SC units, in the Continental Line and, thereby, Sumter becomes an officer of the Continental Line.
March 1777	Sumter in Savannah under the command of General Robert Howe in the defense of Georgia from a feared invasion by the British from their base in Florida.
August 1777 Winter 1777-8	Sumter in Philadelphia lobbying Congress. Sumter's regiment in barracks in Charles Town.
April-July, 1778  August 1778	Sumter and his regiment participate in the abortive <b>Florida Campaign</b> led by General Robert Howe. Regiment assimilated into Gen. William Moultrie's First Brigade and stationed at Fort Dorchester to guard magazine.
September 19, 1778  1778	Sumter resigns his commission as colonel of the Continental Line and returns to his home (Cantey plantation) in the High Hills of the Santee; wife Mary is crippled. Elected to General Assembly under new SC Constitution.
September 1778- May 1780	Sumter at his plantation in the High Hills of the Santee. He takes no active role in the war during this period. Establishes ferry across the Santee River.
May 27, 1780	British forces under Capt. Charles Campbell, one of Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's British Legion, occupy, loot and burn Sumter's plantation and harass his wife.
June 1780	Sumter goes into NC to gather men to return to SC to oppose the British.
June 15, 1780	Sumter elected as Brigadier General of the group SC Patriot militia leaders who have gathered around him in the Catawba Nation.
July 12, 1780	<b>Battle of Brattonsville (Battle of Huck's Defeat; Battle of Williamson's Plantation)</b> fought and won by

	Gen. Sumter's SC Militia Patriots commanded by Cols. William Bratton, William Hill and Edward Lacey and Capt. John McClure against British Legion Capt. Christian Huck's British and Tory forces.
July 30, 1780	<b>Battle of Rocky Mount:</b> Sumter unsuccessfully tries to dislodge the Tory forces under Lt. Col. George Turnbull at Rocky Mount, SC. To prevent British relieving his attack on Rocky Mount, Gen. Sumter dispatched Maj. William R. Davie for a highly successful diversionary raid on the British and Loyalist post at Hanging Rock.
August 6, 1780	<b>Battle of Hanging Rock (II):</b> Gen. Sumter and his Cols. Robert Irwin (Mecklenburg County, NC militia), William Bratton, William Hill, Edward Lacey, Richard Winn, Samuel Watson, James Steen, John Nixon, James Hawthorn, Chief New River and Maj. William Richardson Davie attack British forces under Maj. John Carden at Hanging Rock. Sumter, wounded in the thigh, wins his first clear Patriot militia victory after the fall of Charles Town, destroying the Prince of Wales Loyalist regiment.
August 15, 1780	<b>Attack on Cary's Fort:</b> Gen. Horatio Gates reinforced Sumter with Maryland Continentals, a field piece and North Carolina militia to control the Wateree/Catawba River (Gates' right flank). Sumter's men under the command of Col. Thomas Taylor surprised SC loyalist militia commanded by Loyalist Col. James Cary capturing the garrison, valuable supplies and men headed to reinforce Camden from Ninety Six. Gen. Sumter attacks the British fort at Rocky Mount again, but finds British have evacuated the fort.
August 18, 1780	<b>Battle of Fishing Creek:</b> Sumter, retreating toward NC following his victory at Cary's Fort and Gen. Gates' defeat at Camden on August 16, were surprised and routed by Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton and his British Legion. Sumter escapes to Charlotte to regroup.
October 6, 1780	Sumter officially commissioned as Brigadier General of the SC militia by Governor John Rutledge in Hillsborough, NC and given command of the SC Militia.
October 7, 1780	A portion of Sumter's regiment, under the command of Col. Edward Lacey, participate in the <b>Battle of King's Mountain</b> at which a Whig force of about 900 men killed or captured a Tory force of similar size, thereby destroying the western wing of Lord Cornwallis' army and forcing his retreat from NC to Winnsboro, SC.
November 9, 1780	<b>Battle of Fishdam Ford:</b> Maj. James Wemyss and his 63 <sup>rd</sup> Regiment surprised Sumter and his force of about 400 men camped at the Fish Dam Ford of the Broad River. Recovering from the initial shock of the night-time raid, Sumter's men rallied and drove Wemyss' forces from the field while Sumter, having narrowly avoided capture, hid. Capturing the wounded Wemyss and about 25 of his men the following morning, the Whigs declared victory.
November 18, 1780	<b>Skirmish at Brierly's Ferry:</b> Brief inconclusive engagement between Tarleton and about 150 of Sumter's men.
November 18-19	Sumter contemplates going into Ninety Six District to dislodge Col. Moses Kirkland from the fortified plantation of Col. James Williams, a Whig who died from wounds at King's Mountain and whose plantation had initially been occupied and fortified by Lt. Col. Thomas Brown and later Patrick Ferguson in June 1780 during the British march into the backcountry. Sumter abandons this plan when he learns that Tarleton is approaching his position.
November 20, 1780	<b>Battle of Blackstocks' Plantation:</b> Sumter opposed by Tarleton. Sumter inflicted heavy casualties on Tarleton before making a strategic retreat. Sumter himself sustained a serious bullet wound to his shoulder and required several months' recuperation before he could resume battlefield command of his troops. After being wounded in back and chest, Sumter gave command of his force to Col. John Twiggs.
November 20, 1780-February 9, 1781	Sumter convalesces from his wound in the New Acquisition about 20 miles south of Charlotte.
December 2, 1780	Maj. Gen. Nathanael Greene assumes command of the Southern Department of the Continental Army in Charlotte, NC.
January 17, 1781	<b>Battle of Cowpens:</b> Gen. Daniel Morgan led the Continental Army and militia in a resounding victory against Tarleton and the British. Some of Sumter's men are present under the command of Cols. Thomas Brandon & John Thomas, Jr. After distinguishing himself in this battle, Col. Andrew Pickens was promoted to Brigadier General in the SC militia, thereby gaining equal rank with Francis Marion and Sumter.
February 19-21, 1781	<b>Siege of Fort Granby:</b> Sumter opposed by Maj. Andrew Maxwell. The siege was lifted when Sumter got intelligence of the approach from Camden of British Lt. Col. Welborne Doyle and his Volunteers of Ireland provincial regiment.
February 1781	Victory at Manigault's Ferry.
February 22-24, 1781	<b>Siege of Thomson's Plantation (Belleville):</b> Sumter opposed by Lt. Charles McPherson of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Battalion of Delancey's Regiment. The site was the fortified plantation of Col. William "Danger" Thomson. Sumter was forced to lift the siege when Lord Rawdon reinforced McPherson.
February 28, 1781	<b>Assault on Fort Watson (Wright's Bluff, Scott's Lake):</b> unsuccessful attempt by Sumter to take the British fort built on an ancient Indian mound on the Big Savannah near his plantation. After being repulsed, Sumter retreated toward Charlotte.
March 1, 1781	Lord Rawdon, in pursuit of Sumter, occupies Sumter's plantation. Sumter retreats towards the Waxhaws with his wife Mary and son, Tom. On March 6, 1781 Sumter's party fought with British Maj. Fraser from Scape Hore Swamp to Radcliff's Bridge over the Lynches River.
April 7, 1781	Sumter writes to Greene setting forth the terms of payment of his officers and men from the plunder taken from the Tories. This plan was to become known later as "Sumter's Law."
April 25, 1781	Greene defeated in Camden at the <b>Battle of Hobkirk's Hill</b> ; issues summons for Sumter to join him immediately; Sumter objects and argues for his continued independence from Greene; Greene backs down.
May 2-14, 1781	Sumter commences the <b>Siege of Fort Granby</b> (Cayce, SC) with 400-500 men. He is opposed by 350 men commanded by Maj. Maxwell of the Prince of Wales Regiment; after leaving a force to cut off supplies to Granby, Sumter takes part of his force to <b>Orangeburg</b> and on May 11 forces surrender of the Tory garrison

	there under Col. John Fisher; Sumter moves on to <b>Fort Motte</b> only to find that Lt. Col. "Light Horse Harry" Lee and Gen. Francis Marion have already taken it.
May 15, 1781	Sumter learns that Lt. Col. Lee has taken Granby and negotiated terms of surrender allowing the British to retire taking with them all of the stores and armament at Granby.
May 16, 1781	Sumter, learning of the terms given by Lee at Granby, tenders his resignation to Greene, but Greene refuses it and woes Sumter back into command.
June 18, 1781	Cols. Charles Myddleton and Richard Hampton with 200 men, sent on foraging duty by Sumter, were ambushed by Maj. John Coffin at <b>Juniper Springs</b> .
July 13-18, 1781	Greene puts Sumter in command of about 1,100 men including Lt. Col. Lee and Gen. Francis Marion's regiments with orders to attack the British at <b>Monck's Corner</b> and <b>Dorchester</b> and " <b>thunder at the gates of Charles Town</b> ". British under Lt. Col. James Coates move from Fair Lawn Barony (Monck's Corner) to Biggin Church. Sumter dispatches troops to <b>Four Holes Swamp Bridge, Goose Creek Church, and Quarter House</b> . <b>Battles occur at Biggin Church, Wadboo Bridge, Quinby Creek Bridge and Shubrick's Plantation</b> (the so-called " <b>Dog Days of summer</b> " campaign).
August-October, 1781 September 8, 1781	Sumter in NC. Sumter's state troops and militia commanded by Gen. Andrew Pickens and Col. William Henderson fights victoriously for Gen. Greene at the <b>Battle of Eutaw Springs</b> .
November-December, 1781	Sumter in Orangeburg taking submissions from the loyalists.
December 1781	Sumter elected to the SC Senate and withdraws from active military service. He was to serve in the SC legislature until 1789.
January 8, 1782	SC Legislature meets in Jacksonborough to form the first state government since the fall of Charles Town.
March 21, 1784	SC Legislature passes a bill recognizing the legitimacy of "Sumter's Wages" and exonerating from liability to the former owners of the plunder taken by Sumter and used to pay his troops.
March 20, 1786	SC Legislative committee decides on Columbia as the site of the future State capitol, much to Sumter's dissatisfaction. Sumter preferred Stateburg as the site for the capitol.
1774-1821	Sumter engages in huge land speculation amassing holdings totaling 161,820 acres, excluding a 96,000-acre Cheraws grant made to his son, Thomas Sumter, Jr. The land was largely in present day Camden, Lancaster, Chesterfield, and Sumter Counties. Founded town of Stateburg; experiments with tobacco, cotton and silk worms; raised racehorses; promoted two canal companies.
1789-1801	Sumter elected as US Congressman from Camden District. Thus, he serves as one of the initial members of the first Congress in New York to serve under the new US Constitution. (Interestingly, Sumter cast one of the "no" votes at the 1788 SC Constitutional Convention: SC ratified the Constitution by a vote of 149 to 73.). Sumter served as a member of Congress in the First (1789-1791), Second (1791-1793), Fifth (1797-1799), Sixth (1799-1801) and Seventh (1801-December 15, 1801 when he resigned to take a seat in the US Senate) Congresses. Ironically, he ran for election to the Third (1793-1795) Congress but was defeated by his former lieutenant, Col. Richard Winn of Fairfield. Only SC Congressman to vote for Thomas Jefferson instead of Aaron Burr for President.
December 15, 1801	Sumter elected by SC General Assembly (over John Rutledge) to fill the unexpired term of Charles Pinckney in the US Senate, elected as a Democratic-Republican;
1802	Deed of 523 acres at Great Falls to President Jefferson for a military academy/arsenal.
1804	Re-elected to a full term and re-elected again in 1810 and served until December 16, 1810, when he retired from public office. Thomas Sumter, Jr. elected SC Lieutenant Governor in 1804. Thomas Sumter, Jr. named minister plenipotentiary to Portugal (then in exile in Brazil).
1810	Grandson William Sumter appointed as a cadet to West Point.
October 24, 1817	. Mary Sumter dies at 94 years and is buried at South Mount plantation, Stateburg.
1817-1821	Lives alone at Bradford Springs plantation, Sumter County.
1821-1832	Lives at South Mount plantation, Stateburg, SC.
1831-1832	Argues "states' rights" principles.
June 1, 1832	Sumter dies and is buried at South Mount plantation, High Hills, Sumter County.

In honor of our modern April 15<sup>th</sup> periodic accounting to the government, I am publishing Gen. Sumter's accounting of his public funds compiled by historian, William T. Graves, Esq. ★

## Gen. Thomas Sumter's Accounting of Public Money<sup>i</sup>

Transcribed by William T. Graves

The State of South Carolina –Publick  
To Thomas Sumter

### 1780

### Continental Dollars

July 15	To cash paid Mr. Alexander for carrying dispatches to General De Kalb	[faded out] [\$750] <sup>ii</sup>
Aug. 26	Ditto paid Mr. McGibbony, of Mecklenburg for 70 yards of homespun linen, for saddle pads, bags, etc. at 60 Dollars	4,200
Sept. 25	Ditto paid Saml Knox for 5 gallons whisky—150 Dollars	750
	Ditto—for 10 doz. sheaves oats—12 dollars	120

	" paid Mr. Calhoun for 3 doz. ditto—12 Dollars	36
Sept. 30	Ditto paid Col. Richard Winn, Henry Hampton & John Thomas's expenses at the request of the people, upon their being appointed by them to wait on Gov. Rutledge & Genl. Gates at Hillsborough	7,679
Oct. 10	Ditto pd. George Tate, Brigade Major	890
" 20	Ditto—advanced Col. Thomas Taylor	1,000
Dec. 15	Ditto—advanced Capt. Gibbons (wagon master) on Duty with a brigade of wagons, sent to New Bern by Gov. Rutledge	1,000
Dec. 15	Ditto advanced Capt. Richard Hampton, to be laid out in hospital stores, of which no regular account has been rendered	60,000
"	Ditto pd. Mr. Irvine, of Mecklenburg for shoeing horses	270
"	Ditto, pd. Adjutant Whittaker	200

**1781**

Jan. 10	" advanced to Col. David Hopkins	1,000
"	" " " Col. Henry Hampton	1,800
" 13	" paid Mr. Woods for carrying an Express to Genl. Greene, Pedee	100
" 15	"paid Mr. Rogers for carrying an Express to Gov. Rutledge, Pedee	100
Feb. 7	" paid Col. Henry Hampton	800
" 24	" paid Andrew Harrison for carrying an Express to Gen. Marion at Snow's Island from Congaree, & returning to Santee	2,000
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ditto, advanced Henderson & Harrison who were sent for public lead, and the Governor's Stores which were left in Virginia	1,000
"	Ditto, advanced Col. Hill to purchase steel	1,200
"	Ditto, paid Col. Hill's overseer for 5 gallons of Brandy for use of the troops	1,000
April 12 <sup>thiii</sup>	Cash paid Mr. Hanes of Mecklenburg for 25 spears at 150 Dollars	3,750
May 23	Ditto paid John Houston for 1 case pistols 1200 Dollars—1 rifle 2,200 Dollars	3,400
"	Ditto paid a person employed by Genl. Polk to carry an Express to Genl. Greene (sic) at Deep River, Ramsour's Mills	700
"	Ditto pd. for 6 quires writing paper, at 200 d	1,200
"	Ditto advanced to Capt. Reed to purchase Swords & pistols	10,000
"	Ditto paid Capt. York for 1 case of pistols & 1 sword	2,000
June 1	Ditto paid Mr. Thomas for carrying an Express to Col Williams, at Nutbush, for Gov. Rutledge	3,000
" 5	Ditto paid Mr. Cockrell for a pack horse to carry Stores to Congarees	500
" "	Ditto paid for 6 quires paper, at 250 Dollars	<u>1,500</u>

**Total in Continental Dollars**

**111,945**

**1781**

**Guineas**

July 27	Cash paid Dr. Whitzell	1
"	Ditto paid Maj. Samuel Taylor	1
"	Ditto paid Maj. George Mee	1
"	Ditto paid the State troops	234 ¼
"	Ditto paid Col. Edward Lacey for his regiment	28 ½
"	" paid Col. Wm. Bratton for ditto	4
"	" paid Col Richard Winn	2
"	" paid Col. Thomas Taylor	3
"	" paid Col. Richd Hampton	3
"	" " Maj. John Jenkins	2
"	" " Col. Lee's Legion (5 officers & 77 men)	62 ½
"	" " Capt. Fenn of the artillery	23 ½
"	" " Mr. Richards on Jack's Creek for provision and forage for 17 men & horses 1 night	1
Aug. 1	Cash paid Mrs. Walker at Eutaws for hospital stores, omitted, 25 <sup>th</sup> last month	3
"	" " Mr. Wright 1 day's provision for 13 men, and 3 days forage for 13 horses	<u>1</u>

**Entered in guineas, amounting to**

**370 ¾**

**Proclamation  
Money of No.  
Carolina**

Aug. 6	To cash paid Thomas Ferguson, of Mecklenburg, for 24 bush. oats for the use of the teams going to the Moravian Town at 3/pr. bush.	£ 3.12
" 15	Ditto paid Mrs. Shields for forage & provisions	1.18
" 16	Ditto paid Capt. Fifer for provisions	1.1
Aug. 16	Ditto paid Moses Barnet for 150 lbs indigo, accounted for by the commissary of Stores	£71.5
" 23	Ditto paid Mrs. Steele, Salisbury, for provisions & forage	3.4
" 25	Ditto paid Capt. Fifer for forage	.7
" "	Ditto paid Mr. Alexander for do	.10
" 26	Ditto paid Mr. Harris for provisions & forage	1.12
" 28	Ditto paid Mr. Bagge, Merchant in Moravian Town, for 400 lb steel	50.00
" "	Ditto paid ditto for 12,700 Saddle tacks	7.4

" "	Ditto paid the carriage of the steel & Saddle tacks	3.13.9
" 30	Ditto paid Thos. Ferguson for 30 bus. oats 3/	4. 10
Sept. 5	Ditto pd. for dried fruit for use of the Sick at Congaree	.16
" "	Ditto advanced Adjutant Crawford & Mr. Butler on their way from Virginia after being exchanged	1.18
" 7	Ditto advanced Capt. Warley, Theus, & other officers & soldiers on their way from Virginia, they being much distressed	19.00
" 10	Ditto pd. Thos. Ferguson for 30 bus. corn for the use of the public teams & horses, at 3/	4.10
" 13	Ditto paid John Herbst, [tener (sic, tanner) Moravian Town] for 505 lbs sole leather, 30 sides of upper leather, 10 calfskins, pr. his acct.	69.15.6
Sept. 13	Ditto paid for 39 pairs Men's shoes for the Troops, at 11/	£21. 9
" "	N. B. on 84 ½ guineas laid out in steel, leather, tacks, shoes, etc. in Moravian Town, there was a loss of 2/Proc. pr. guinea	8.9
" "	Cash paid Mrs. Springs, of Mecklenburg, for 2 sides upper leather, & 3 sides of sole leather, omitted in last month	5.17
Oct. 10	Ditto paid Thos. Hunter for carrying despatches for the Honble. Gen. Greene to Col. Shelby	.7
" "	Cash advanced the widow Mrs. McCall, the wife of the deceased Col. McCall, of Long Canes, she being much distressed	3.16
" 15	Ditto paid John Milling for carrying despatches for the Honble. Gen. Greene to Col. Shelby	0.19
" "	Ditto paid Hugh King & John Milling, of Col. Willm. Hampton's regiment, for all the public clothing provided them	9.12
" "	Ditto paid Col. Polk, for pasturage for public teams & invalid horses	8
" "	Ditto paid Mr. Calhoun for a Keg of butter wt. 86 lbs. at 1/1	4.13
" "	Ditto paid John Jack, blacksmith, for shoeing horses, etc.	4.00
Oct. 15	Cash paid James Williams for a field of corn & peas for the public horses	£25
" "	Ditto paid for 2 quires paper for ? Munell & Humphrey, at 8/	.16
" "	Ditto for 18 quires paper for use of the militia brigade, and the command	7.4
" "	Ditto for 22 quires paper for the State brigade 8/	8.16
" "	Ditto for 4 large files for use of the officers at 8/	1.12
" 17	Ditto for 36 large files & cases for the use of the public armory at Camden	14.8
Oct 27	Ditto paid Mr. Sutton, near Camden, for 2 bush. corn at 4/	8.
" "	Ditto paid Capt. Lipham's Expenses while purchasing clothing for ye troops	4.10
" "	Ditto paid for 86 pairs Men's shoes for the State Brigade 8/	34. 8
" "	Ditto paid for 610 yards homespun linnen for soldiers' clothing 5/9	175.7.6
" "	Ditto paid for 46 yds woolen cloth at 7/3 & 3 ¾ ditto at 10/	18.11
" "	Ditto paid for 10 British muskets at 60/; 3 do at 48/; 1 carbine 20/	38.4
" "	Ditto paid for making 196 shirts & overalls for the troops, at 4/each	39.4
" "	Ditto paid for sewing thread	1.12.6
" "	Ditto paid for 20 quires paper for the use of the State & militia brigade at 8/	8.00
<b>1781</b>		
Oct. 27	Cash advanced to Mr. Withers to purchase thread 13 ¾ Dollars	£ 5.10
" "	Ditto paid for 75lbs coffee at 15d sterling, & 63 lbs sugar at 2/6 sterling, for the use of the Hospital (omitted in July last) equal in Proc.	21.11
Nov. 5	Ditto to Mr. Billups for a saddle horse	142.10
" "	Ditto paid for 49 quires paper at 8/; 8yds. Scarlet calanemco(?) for facings at 4/; 8 ½ yds gilt carpeting for turbants (?) at 16/; 7 ½ yards Indian cotton, for spear flags, at 8/--Omitted? last	13.00
<b>1782</b>		
March 18	Ditto paid Lawrence Sheanbaker, of Wm Hampton's regiment, in lieu of the following articles of clothing, due him, viz—1 blanket 3 dollars, 1 pair overalls 3 ¾ dollars; 1 shirt 2 ½ Dollars; 1 waist coat 1 ½ Dollars; 1 pr. shoes 1 Dollar; & 1 pr. spurs ½ dollar; total \$11 ¼, equal to	4.10
" "	Ditto pd. Geo. Dowell, Col. Polk's regiment, in lieu of the following articles of public clothing due him, viz—1 coat 5 dollars; 2 waistcoats at 1 ½ dollars; 1 shirt 2 ½ dollars; 2 pair overalls at 2 ¾ dollars; 1 pr. hose 1 dollar; 1 pair shoes 1 dollar; 1 pr. spurs ½ dollar & 1 blanket 3 dollars—total 21 1/2 dollars [equal to]	8.12
<b>1782</b>		
Nov. 18	Cash paid Sheed Davis, Col. Polk's regiment, in lieu of the following articles of public clothing due him, viz—1 blanket 3 dollars; 1 pair overalls 2 ¾ dollars; 1 shirt 2 ½ dollars; 1 waistcoat 1 ½ dollars; & 1 pair hose 1 dollar—total 10 ½ dollars, equal to	£ 4.6
June 1	Ditto paid Joseph Hunt, of Col. Polk's regiment, in lieu of the following articles of pub. clothing due him, viz—1 coat—1 shirt—2 waistcoats—2 pair overalls—1 pair hose—1 pair spurs & 1 blanket—20 dollars, equal to	8.00
" "	Ditto paid Reuben Lesterburg, Col. Polk's regiment, in lieu of the following articles of public clothing due him, viz—1 blanket 3 dollars; 2 pair overalls at 2 ¾ dollars; 1 shirt 2 ½ dollars; 2 waistcoats at 1 ½ dollars; 1 pr. shoes 1 dollar; 1 cap 1 dollar; 1 pr. spurs ½ dollar; amounting to 17 ½ dollars, equal to	
		<u>£ 7.00</u>
<b>Amt. of Proclamation Money</b>		<b>£904.18.5</b>
<b>£904,18s,5d Proc. Money of North Carolina, reduced to guineas at 38/ each, is</b>		<b>Guineas</b>

<b>Amt. of Guineas brought from former adding</b>	<b>476 ¼</b>
	<b>370 ¾</b>
	<b>847</b>
<b>847 guineas at 21/9 each, in pounds sterling</b>	<b>£922.2.3</b>

**Credit:**

By captured cash, and moneys arising from the sales of captured articles, 814 guineas at 21/9 each, is in pounds sterling	<u>£885.4.6</u>
---	-----------------

Balance due Thos. Sumter in Sterling	£36.17.9
--------------------------------------	----------

N. B. to be deducted from the sterling money 30 7/8 hard dollars being omitted: To amount brought from first posting No. 1, of this sheet—Continental Dollars	111,945
---	---------

Omitted  
9<sup>th</sup> July  
1780  
Aug. 21  
Sept.

To cash paid John Denkins & Geo. Meet for carrying & circulating letters among the people of the Wateree & Congaree; reconnoitering the Enemy	500
---	-----

Ditto paid James Little for similar services	1,000
--	-------

Ditto pd. James Blair, of the Waxesaws (sic), for flour	5,000
---	-------

118,445

**Credit:**

By cash recd. from the Public Treasurer by order of Gov. Rutledge, in Continl. certificates	<u>150,000</u>
---	----------------

Balance due the public in Cont'l Dollars	\$31,555
--	----------

Depreciation at 125 for one in Sterling	£58.17.6
---	----------

N. B.—No regular account has been rendered of the \$60,000 dollars advanced Col. Hampton to purchase hospital Stores, but have no doubt but it was applied to that use, notwithstanding but a small part came to hand.

Errors Excepted

**Signed/ Thomas Sumter**

<sup>i</sup> From the copy made by Lyman C. Draper and included in 7 VV 579-589 of the Draper Manuscripts.

<sup>ii</sup> The figure of \$750 was determined by subtracting all of the stated numbers from the total given below.

<sup>iii</sup> In his transcript, Draper entered the remaining Continental Dollar entries under the heading "1780" but this is clearly erroneous since Gen. Greene to whom one of the entries refers was not in the Southern theater on April 12, 1780, but he was as of April 12, 1781. ★

**Charles B. Baxley.....editor    William T. Graves.....contributor    Werner Willis.....artist**

*Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* is dedicated to the study of the War for American Independence in the Southern Department from 1760 to 1789. We facilitate the exchange of information on the Southern Campaigns' Revolutionary War sites, their location, preservation, historic signage, interpretation, artifacts, and archaeology as well as the personalities, military tactics, units, logistics, strategy, and the political leadership of the state. We highlight professionals and amateurs actively engaged in Revolutionary War research, preservation and interpretation to encourage an active exchange of information. All are invited to submit articles, pictures, documents, events and suggestions. We feature battles and skirmishes, documents, maps, artifacts, Internet links, and other stories.

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★

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Artist Mort Kunstler's representation of Mrs. Rebecca Motte in the siege trench talking with Gen. Marion and Lt. Col. Lee after the flaming arrows were shot onto her roof.

**Rebecca Brewton Motte** was born in South Carolina in 1739 and died in 1815. She married Jacob Motte (Jr.) in 1758. Jacob Motte (Jr.) died of disease in January 1781. Her father-in-law, Col. Jacob Motte (Sr.) was the longtime public treasurer of the colony of South Carolina and continued to serve in that capacity with the rebel South Carolina government.

Miles Brewton and his wife and children were lost at sea in 1775. His sister, Mrs. Rebecca Brewton Motte, was one of his heirs and she with her husband and three daughters resided at his 27 King Street home in Charles Town during the Revolution. After the fall of Charles Town in May 1780 the Brewton home became the headquarters for Sir Henry Clinton and Lords Rawdon and Cornwallis. Tradition says Mrs. Motte locked her three young daughters in the attic while the British were in the house. Although the British officers seemed not to realize the daughters were there during their occupation, one remarked to Mrs. Motte upon his leaving that it was a shame they did not get the chance to meet the rest of the family. Another tradition says a British officer etched Clinton's profile and the picture of a full-rigged ship on one of the marble mantels. In the fall of 1780, Mrs. Motte was given permission to leave Charles Town and return to Mount Joseph Plantation on Buck Head Hill on the Congaree River. Mount

Joseph Plantation was strategically located on a high bluff, overlooking the river near the Charles Town to Rocky Mount Road. This plantation served as a British Fort and Patriot camp for Gen. Nathanael Greene before he launched his attack at Eutaw Springs in the fall of 1781.

During the occupation of the interior of South Carolina by the British, Rebecca Motte's mansion on the Congaree River was seized by the British, who fortified it with a high parapet. Mrs. Motte retired with her family to a farmhouse on the plantation. Gen. Thomas Sumter tried to dislodge the British from neighboring Belleville Plantation unsuccessfully on February 21, 1781. After Gen. Greene returned to South Carolina with his Continental Army, he dispatched Lt. Col. "Lighthorse Harry" Henry Lee to support Gen. Francis Marion and take Fort Motte on May 8, 1781. Fort Motte was a strategically located mansion at the point near where the Congaree and Wateree Rivers joined to form the Santee River. It was fortified and held by British Lt. Donald McPherson with over 150 men. A supply convoy had arrived on May 8, just prior to the Patriot army. After starting an approach sap, on May 10, the call for surrender was refused and that evening; however, the rebels learned that Lord Rawdon was retreating from Camden, SC on the Nelson's Ferry Road on the east side of the Wateree River.

After three days of digging regular approaches and with Lord Rawdon approaching, Lt. Col. Lee decided to fire flaming arrows onto the mansion's roof and burn the British out. When Mrs. Motte was informed of the plan, she not only did not protest, but even offered up a bow and a set of arrows. On the morning of May 12th, surrender was again called for and refused. By noon, the rebel trenches were close enough for two arrows to be fired onto the roof. The defenders were prevented from putting out the fire by artillery fire and by 1:00 pm the garrison, one hundred and sixty-five in number, surrendered. The patriotic owner then regaled both the American and British officers with a good dinner at her own table. After the Revolutionary War, Rebecca Motte assumed all of her husband's liabilities and purchased on credit a tract of rice land on the Santee River, and by her energy and economy paid all the debts that he had incurred and accumulated a large property.

Mrs. Motte's three daughters married, respectively, John Middleton of Lee's Legion, Gen. Thomas Pinckney, former aid-de-camp to Gen. Horatio Gates and participant in the Florida campaign, and Captain William Alston of Gen. Marion's Brigade.

**Excerpt from William Dobein James, *A Sketch of the Life of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion*:**

Although so weak after the affair at Hobkirk [the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill April 25, 1781], Gen. Greene, had sent a reinforcement to [Gen. Francis] Marion under Major Eaton with a six-pounder, and on the 8th of May [1781], Marion and Lee commenced firing upon Fort Motte. As soon as Gen. Greene heard of the retreat of Lord Rawdon from Camden [May 10, 1781], he decamped from Cornal's creek [Colonels Creek in Fairfield County], and moving down on the west bank of the Wateree, took a position near M'Cord's ferry, so as to cover the besiegers. Fort Motte stood on a high hill called Buckhead, a little on the right of the Charleston road, where it leaves the Congaree below M'Cord's. Within its walls was included the house of Mrs. Motte, who had retired to that of her overseer. -- When told it was necessary to burn the house, in order to take the fort expeditiously, she at once requested it should be done, and, as the means of effecting it, furnished an Indian bow and arrows. On the night of the 10th, the fires of Lord Rawdon's camp were seen on the Santee hills, in his retreat from Camden, and encouraged the garrison for a while; but on the 12th the house was set on fire, and the commander Lieut. [Donald] M'Pherson, and one hundred and sixty-five men, surrendered. This deed of Mrs. Motte has been deservedly celebrated. Her intention to sacrifice her valuable property was patriotic; but the house was not burnt, as is stated by historians, nor was it fired by an arrow from an African bow, as sung by the poet. -- Nathan Savage, a private in Marion's brigade, made up a ball of rosin and brimstone, to which he set fire, slung it on the roof of the house. The British surrendered before much mischief was done to it, and Marion had the fire put out.

At the commencement of this siege, Serjt. M'Donald, now advanced to a lieutenantcy, was killed. He was a native of Cross creek [modern Fayetteville], in North Carolina, and his father and other relations had espoused the opposite side of the cause. Lieut. Cryer, who had often emulated M'Donald, shared a similar fate. On the 25th Nov. last [1780], we have seen Gen. Sumter severely wounded at Black Stocks; but on the 20th Feb. just three months after, he sat down before Fort Granby, to besiege it, and wrote to Marion, who was his junior officer, to move in such a direction as to attract the attention of Lord Rawdon; but at that time the fort was relieved.

On the same day that Fort Motte surrendered, Gen. Sumter took the British fort at Orangeburgh, with a garrison consisting of seventy Tories and twelve British; and in three days after, on the 15th May, he took Fort Granby; long the object of his wishes. This fort was surrendered to him by Major Maxwell, of

the British, with nineteen officers, three hundred and twenty-nine men, mostly royalists, and five pieces of ordnance.

**Archaeological Reconnaissance of Fort Motte Battlefield**

The University of South Carolina, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (USC - SCIAA) received grant from the National Park Service's American Battlefield Preservation Program (ABPP) for a survey of the Fort Motte battlefield area. The principal investigator, archaeologist-historian Steven D. Smith, working with archaeologist James B. Legg and others conducted the survey of the site of the successful patriot siege of Fort Motte. This way fort was located on the high bluff overlooking the Congaree River in Calhoun County, South Carolina, around the plantation house built on top of Buck Head Hill by Rebecca Brewton Motte on a Congaree River plantation that she inherited from her brother Miles Brewton. The purpose of the investigation was to define the battlefield by locating:

1. British camp;
2. Motte house and fortifications;
3. Gen. Francis Marion's South Carolina militia camp;
4. Overseer's house and Lt. Col. "Light Horse Harry" Lee's Legion Continental's camp;
5. Artillery mound; and
6. Sap (approach siege ditch).

The investigators discovered the fort ditch by noticing soil discoloration and a difference in vegetation color ("crop marks") surrounding the granite Daughters of the American Revolution monument placed there in 1906. This evidence showed that the DAR correctly sited the fortified Motte plantation house.



**DAR monument placed on the center of Fort Motte in 1909.**

The project archaeologists excavated meter-wide trenches across the crop marks and found the filled enclosure fosse (ditch) and probable location of the parapet.

The excavations appear to confirm an engineers drawing of Fort Motte's fosse and parapet design. The fosse appears to have been at about 7 feet deep.

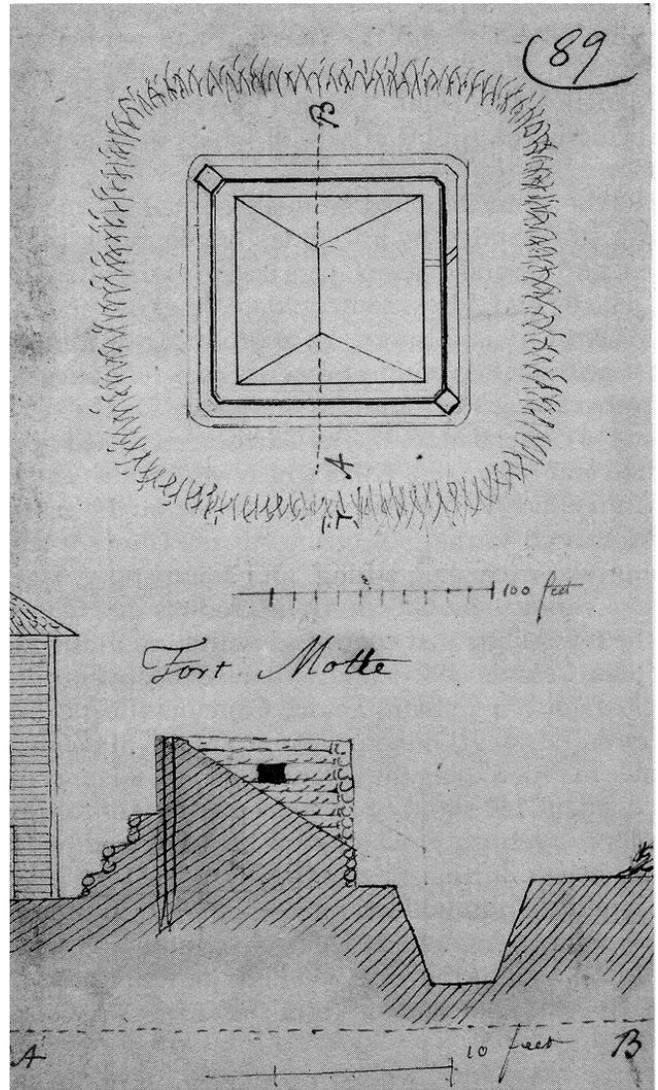


**Archaeologist Jim Legg documents the excavated cross section of the defensive ditch. Red clay of the same geological formation known as the Orangeburg escarpment which forms the “High Hills of the Santee” found of the East side of the Wateree and Santee Rivers.**

This drawing of the British defensive works at Fort Motte is in the Papers of the Continental Congress, which are housed at the National Archives. A careful screening of the ditch fill recovered no artifacts other than a single cow bone. The fort appears approximately 125 feet square with a “block house” on each corner. These dimensions are similar to an extant Revolutionary War earthwork at Fair Lawn Barony in Berkeley County, South Carolina.

In addition, to confirming the site of Rebecca Motte’s fortified plantation house, the surveyors conducted a systematic metal detection survey over the site and found a distribution of shot and dropped musket balls of different calibers consistent with the historical accounts of firing between the opposing sides.

Eighteenth century military artifacts recovered from the battlefield included a musket ball with an iron nail embedded, canister rounds, rifle and musket balls, and French gun flints.



**Sketch of the Works at Fort Motte found in the National Archives and copied from *The Papers of General Nathanael Greene, Vol. VIII, p. 252.***



**Musket balls recovered from Fort Motte including ball with an embedded nail. I can imagine the sound this produced when fired.**

As the Patriots fired their six-pounder with grape shot to suppress the rooftop fire fighters and the British had a caronade, I will be interested in the location of the artillery rounds recovered. A caronade is a short light piece, especially useful in confined spaces, usually from 6 to 68 pounds. *Artillery through the Ages,*



**“French Honey” gunflints recovered from Fort Motte.**



**Examples of fired 18<sup>th</sup> century musket balls recovered at Fort Motte.**

The investigators also attempted to locate the American siege works, consisting of approach saps or ditches and parallels. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) was ineffective in showing any subsoil anomalies and no proven siege-works were located during the limited time the investigators had on site. Gen. Greene reported that the “approaches” had reached the enemy’s abatis surrounding the post. It has been reported to SCAR that the location of a depression up the north face of the hill before Fort Motte was still visible in the 1980s.

The archaeologists also attempted to locate the artillery mound that was constructed by Gen. Marion’s men to elevate their six-pound cannon to get a clear shot across the north face of the works and house. As the pictures below show, this mound was clearly visible to visitors to the site as late as the 1980s; unfortunately, the archaeological survey was unable to locate any remnants of the mound. It was reported to SCAR by two amateur historians that during forestry operations in the late 1980s, this mound was intentionally leveled. The artillery mound was about 200 yards east northeast of the fortified Motte house and designed to allow Marion’s six pounder to rake the roof and north face of the fort. Lt. Col. Lee reported in his *Memoirs* that the defenders were driven off of the roof of the Motte house by grapeshot from the six-pounder “posted close to one of the gable ends of the house”. The artillery mound pictured below from in 1987 stood in the late 1980s as high as twelve feet above the surrounding territory and was large enough to hold a six-pound cannon and its crew. It was reported to SCAR that the mound originally was higher than fifteen feet.



**Gen. Marion’s Artillery Mound, east side, in 1987 shortly before its destruction.**



**Gen. Marion’s Artillery Mound – West Side in 1987.**

The survey also attempted to locate the site of the “overseer’s cabin” that the historical accounts relate as Motte’s residence after the British seized her plantation home. Lee’s Continentals are reported to have camped on the hill at this cabin site on the prominent hill north of Fort Motte. An 18<sup>th</sup> Century domestic site was located on this hill and artifacts were recovered (pistol ball, kettle frog, knife), which are consistent with, but not conclusive proof of, the location of the plantation overseer’s cabin and Continental’s camp reported in the historic record and shown in the painting below.



**Rebecca Motte in front of her overseer’s cabin offers Gen. Francis Marion and Lt. Col. “Light Horse Harry” Lee the bow and arrows to touch her house. This painting is by John Blake White (1781-1859), undated, a gift of artist’s son now in the US Senate art collection.**

Finally, the survey attempted to locate the homestead of Levi Smith, a loyalist who was at the fort during the siege and who lived nearby. Another 18<sup>th</sup> Century site was found South of the Motte house at a site consistent with the historical record; however, the artifacts recovered are not conclusive that it is the location of Levi Smith’s homestead. Smith provided intelligence to Lord Rawdon prior to the siege of Fort Motte. Afterward, as a prisoner, he was about to be hanged when Gen. Marion arrived and spared his life (*Royal Gazette*, April 13-17, 1782).

Hopefully, more archaeological work will be authorized to confirm the camps’, saps’ and any parallel’s locations. The final report will be available in December 2005.

**From a letter from Gen. Nathanael Greene to Samuel Huntington, President of the Continental Congress**

**Camp at McCords Ferry on the Congaree May 14<sup>th</sup> 1781**

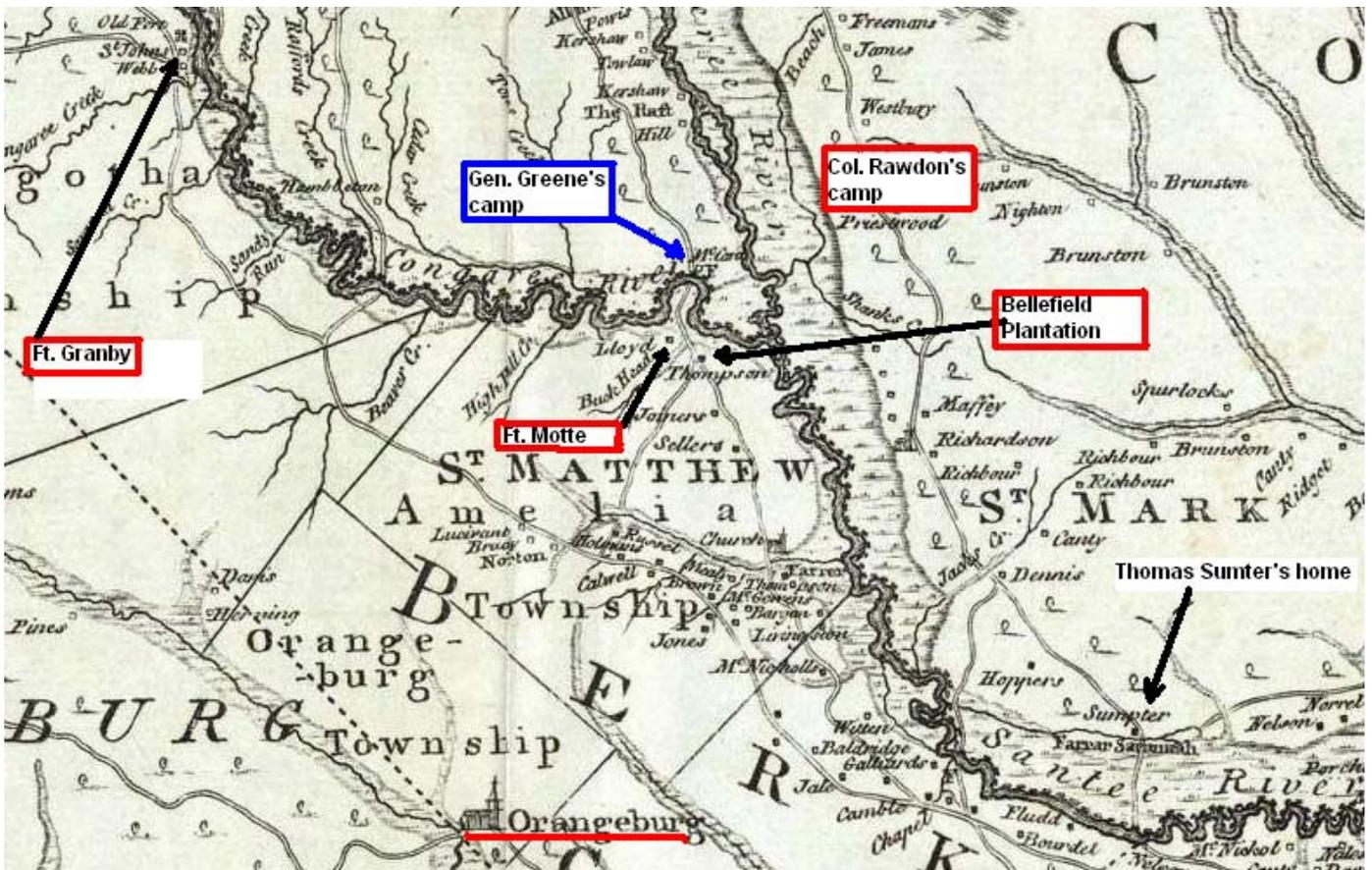
.....On the 12<sup>th</sup> Fort Motte surrendered to General Marian. The Garrison consisted of upwards of one hundred and Forty men, 120 of which were british and Hessian, & seven or eight Officers. The place was invested on the eighth, and the approaches carried to the foot of the Abattis before it surrendered. The redoubt was exceeding strong, and commanded by Lieutenant McPherson a very gallant Officer. Great credit is due General Marian, and the few Militia that continued with him, in the reduction of this post. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Colonel Lee's legion and the detachments serving with him under Major [Pinketham] Eaton, Captains [Ebenezer] Finley of the artillery, & [Edward] Oldham & [John?] Smith of the infantry were indefatigable in prosecuting the Seige. There was taken at the Fort one Caronnade, about 140 stand of Arms, a quantity of salt, provisions, and other Stores; returns of which shall be forwarded hereafter.....

*The Papers of General Nathanael Greene, Vol. VIII, p. 251.*

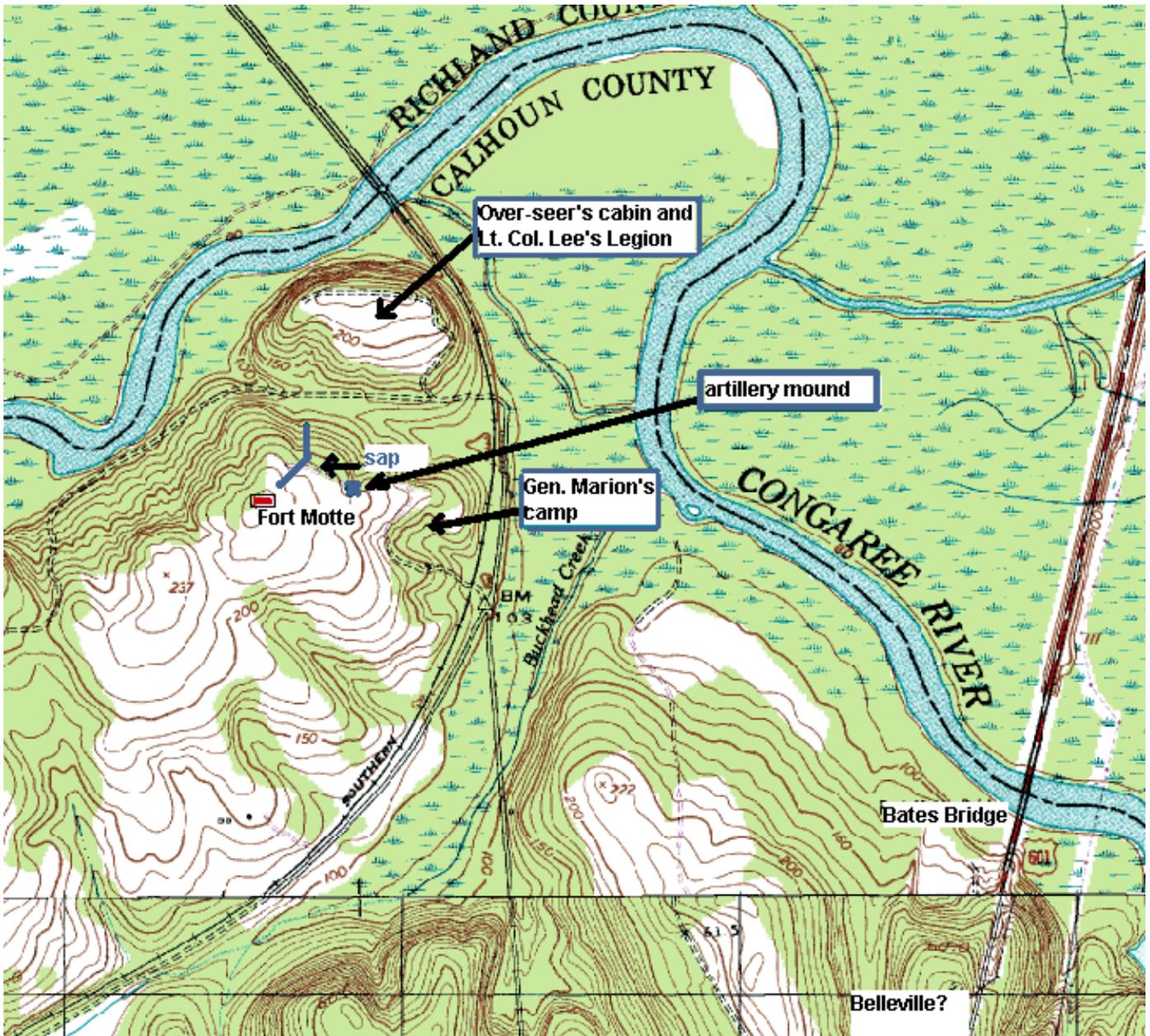
**Belleville Plantation**

Also of interest in the area, but not included in this survey, is Belleville Plantation and fortress. Continental Col. William "Danger" Thomson, the hero of the defense of Breach Inlet from Lord Cornwallis in 1776, plantation home, Belleville Plantation, was constructed about one mile southeast of Miles Brewton's Mount Joseph Plantation. It was near the Charlestown to McCord's Ferry Road and occupied by the British in 1780. Here the British built supply base and a fortified way post overlooking the Congaree River near the McCord's Ferry. Among the historic remains reported to be near Belleville Plantation are its earthwork fortifications; the Thomson Cemetery which is said to contain the remains of troops who died in the area; British and Patriot campsites and hospital site; McCord's Ferry, a strategic crossing of the Rocky Mount Road over the Congaree River; and Gillon's Retreat, the plantation of Commodore Alexander Gillon, of the South Carolina Navy. The approximate location of Belleville was along lower Congaree River, near the modern Bates Bridge crossing of U.S. 601 into Calhoun County, SC.

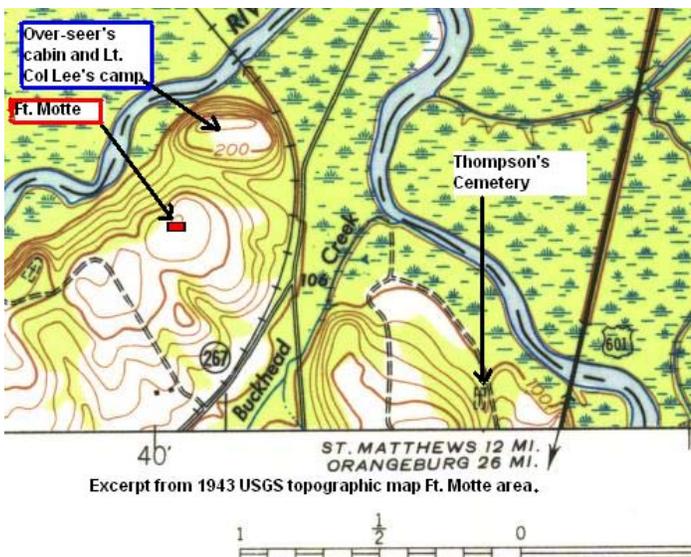
Why did the British apparently abandon fortified Belleville Plantation, located only 1 mile away from Fort Motte, by April 1781 and fortify Rebecca Motte's new house? Was it in response to Gen. Thomas Sumter's unsuccessful attack on February 21, 1781? Historian Alexander S. Salley in *The History of Orangeburg County 1704-1782* wrote that there was a diversionary attack on Belleville to prevent a junction of the Belleville garrison with those at Fort Motte. When Fort Motte fell, Belleville was evacuated by the British. (p. 379)



**Excerpt from Cook's 1773 map of South Carolina showing Col. Thomson's Plantation "Belleville" and Buck Head Creek. Annotations by Charles B. Baxley represent approximate locations.** British commander Col. Rawdon evacuated Camden on May 10<sup>th</sup> and took up a camp in the "High Hills" east of the Wateree River. The defenders of Fort Motte could see Rawdon's campfires on the night of May 11-12, 1781. Gen. Nathanael Greene camped near McCord's Ferry on May 13, 1781. Gen. Thomas Sumter attacked the garrison at Orangeburg, SC which surrendered on May 11, 1781 and Lt. Col. Lee was sent back up the Congaree River to attack the British fort at Granby (modern Cayce, SC) at Friday's Ferry. British commandant Maj. Andrew Maxwell surrendered Fort Granby on May 15, 1781.



Excerpt from USGS 7.5 minute topographic map, Wateree Quad. Annotations by Charles B. Baxley represent approximate locations. Fort Motte is located on private property. No trespassing. ★



Excerpt from 1943 USGS topographic map Ft. Motte area.

**Query – Help Needed**

As shown on Cook's map above, McCord's Ferry crossed the Congaree River just upstream from its confluence with the Wateree River. The Congaree River formed a great loop to the north, called the great bend of the Congaree, which loop has now been bypassed to form an oxbow lake, now called Bates Old River on the topographic maps. McCord's Ferry Road traveled from near the outlet of Buck Head Creek, north in the middle of the loop to cross the Congaree about 2 miles north of its present course. SCAR invites help to locate and plot the ferry and approach roads precise location along with Belleville Fort, the Thompson Cemetery, Gillon's Retreat, and Commodore Alexander Gillon's grave.

The term "Buck Head" was an 18<sup>th</sup> Century slang term for an Indian Town.

Could the defenders of Fort Motte really see Lord Rawdon's campfires in the High Hills of the Santee? SCAR thinks it unlikely. ★

## Order of Battle

**American Forces**

Commanding Officer	
Brigadier General Francis Marion	
Continentals	
Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lee	
Lee's Legion	300
North Carolina Continentals <sup>11</sup>	25
Major Pinkertham Eaton	
1 <sup>st</sup> North Carolina Regiment <sup>12</sup>	115
Captain Samuel Finley	
1 <sup>st</sup> Continental Artillery Regiment of Virginia	
6-pound cannon	1
South Carolina Continentals and Militia	
Brigadier General Francis Marion	
Marion's Brigade of Partisans	150
Lieutenant Colonel Peter Horry	
Horry's South Carolina Regiment	

**British Forces**

Commanding Officer	
Lieutenant Donald McPherson	
British Regulars	
Lieutenant Donald McPherson	
84 <sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot	
(Royal Highland Emigrants)	80
Corporal John Ludvick Frederick Starkloff's	
Troop of Light Dragoons	58
Artillery	1 caronnade
Loyalist Militia	45

Patrick O' Kelley, "*Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*" *The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume Three, 1781* ★

**April 15-23, 1781** Fort Watson, South Carolina

Continental General Nathanael Greene detached Lt. Col. "Light Horse Harry" Henry Lee and his Legion to work with Gen. Francis Marion of the SC Militia to screen his forces marching to Camden, SC against any movement by Lord Cornwallis in the Wilmington, NC area and to interdict supplies to the British Camden garrison. The threat did not materialize and Lee and Marion combined forces to lay siege to Fort Watson, which is a vital link in the scheme of British communications. Fort Watson was built on top of a forty-foot high Indian mound on Scott's Lake, an oxbow lake off of the north side of the Santee River. It was a small, but strong, position defended by a mixed force of 120 British regulars and Loyalists. After SC Patriot Militia Col. Maham's men constructed a log tower to fire into the garrison, the British surrendered. Two Patriots were killed and six wounded. ★

<sup>11</sup> This was Lieutenant Edward Manning's troop that was made up of 12-month North Carolina Continentals that were forced to serve after Guilford Courthouse

<sup>12</sup> The 1<sup>st</sup> North Carolina Regiment was made up of 12-month Continentals from the Halifax District. Some historians have mistakenly written that these men were the militia who had fled the field at Guilford Courthouse, and then had to serve in the Continentals for 12 months, but those men are not the unit under Eaton. The four North Carolina Continental companies who fought at Guilford were sent to serve as the cadre of Eaton's detachment

## Patrick O' Kelley's "*Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*" *The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume Three, 1781* Now Available

In *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter, Volume Two*, O'Kelley details the actions in which the British had conquered Georgia and South Carolina, and had turned their attentions towards North Carolina. By 1781 the British government thought that the war in America was all but over and they could now focus on France and Spain. Though the war had turned against the Patriots, they were not finished as the backcountry was polarized and backcountry militias won important victories over the British at Musgroves' Mill, Kings Mountain, Fish Dam Ford, and Blackstock's Plantation. The British controlled much territory in the colonies, but they had not won the peace.

Many of Lord Cornwallis's army had been taken prisoner at King's Mountain in 1780. Cornwallis knew that if he marched into North Carolina the supply lines to his army would be spread thin and the Backcountry Carolina Patriot guerillas would be able to strike at will. Cornwallis also knew that to destroy the enemy he had to carry the war to them. He could not do this in South Carolina. Against orders from his superior in New York City Cornwallis decided to carry the war into North Carolina.

The Revolutionary War was decided in the forests and plowed fields of the South. Huge lumbering armies brought the war into the low country and the piedmont while roving bands of guerillas harassed each other. Americans fought Americans in a bloody Carolina backcountry civil war. Past grievances against neighbors were paid with blood and fire by the partisans of both sides.

This book is the third volume of four that attempts to list every single military action, no matter how small, in the Carolinas. These volumes are the most complete history of the units, leaders and military actions in the war in the Carolinas and a must have for any military history library of the American War of Independence.

The author, Patrick O'Kelley is retired from the US Army Special Forces. He is currently a Junior ROTC instructor and has been a Revolutionary War reenactor and living historian for over 25 years.

"*Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*" *The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume Three, 1781* is available from the publisher's website, for \$21.95, plus shipping and handling, from the Booklocker.com website at:

<http://www.booklocker.com/books/1965.html>

Or, you can order for \$28.00 (which includes shipping) with a check, from:

Blue House Tavern Press  
709 Kramer Road  
Lillington, NC 27546  
Patrick O'Kelley ([goober.com@juno.com](mailto:goober.com@juno.com)) ★

In the spring of 1781, the British were also posted at Nelson's Ferry. Lord Rawdon retreated from Camden on May 10, 1781 down the east side of the Wateree River and arrived at Nelson's Ferry late on May 13<sup>th</sup> where he was reinforced. Rawdon then turned north to relieve his garrison at Fort Granby, but soon learned of their surrender. Rawdon then withdrew to Fair Lawn at Monck's Corner. Nelson's Ferry has its southern terminus at the mouth of the Eutaw Creek, which is now under the waters of Lake Marion. The northern terminus of Nelson's Ferry is also under the waters of Lake Marion. SCAR seeks the location of the British post at Nelson's Ferry. ★

## Book Review

**Wayne E. Lee** *Crowds and Soldiers in Revolutionary North Carolina: The Culture of Violence in Riot and War*. Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2001. ISBN 0-8130-2095-6. Maps. Figures. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xv, 380. Cloth, \$55.00, Paper, \$24.95.

Most people possessing even a nodding acquaintance with the War of Independence in the Southern States acknowledge that the fighting in that region reached a level of ferocity not often seen in eighteenth century conflicts. Few historians, however, have sought to do much more than catalogue the atrocities committed by both sides. Explaining and interpreting the meaning of these acts, if attempted at all, has often been done on a fairly rudimentary level. Wayne E. Lee sets out to alter this state of affairs, at least in regards to North Carolina, with his *Crowds and Soldiers in Revolutionary North Carolina*.

In seeking an explanation for the violence that marked the strife in North Carolina's during the war, Lee utilizes a consciously structuralist methodology. First, he turns to the literature focusing on riots in Early Modern Europe. In this section, the author focuses mainly on England; though he does draw in some important studies of violence on the European Continent as well. All of the preceding investigation develops the notion that a key factor in early modern protest was legitimacy. People had to act out in ways seen as acceptable by those in power. Legitimacy, then, imposed limits on the actions people could take, even when these actions constituted a protest against authority. This should not be taken to mean, however that peoples actions were determined completely by social restraints. More, it presented them with a menu of possible actions within which they could choose various responses.

Out of this material, Lee develops an argument that the colonists brought with them the socially understood means of protest that were familiar to them. He then adroitly tracks the transportation of these patterns of behavior as they moved across the Atlantic with the colonist who established North Carolina. In developing his arguments here, Lee uses data on immigration patterns in order to support his contention. The author goes on to examine the manner in which events unfolded in several protests, including the Regulator Movement. The inquiry focuses on the means the crowds, as well as authorities, made use of in order to give the perception that their actions were legitimate. For example, crowds would punish their victims using military or judicial forms. In this way they sought to portray what they were doing as an acceptable, legal action. At the same time, the quest for legitimacy could restrain the actions of both sides in a social protest in that neither one wanted to risk the loss of support that could result from stepping beyond acceptable bounds.

All of this material constitutes the first part of *Crowds and Soldiers*, and sets the basis for understanding the violence that marked the latter stages of the War of Independence in North Carolina. Again, legitimacy stands as a key factor for understanding both the resort to violence, and its restraint, both on the battlefield and off.

While Lee follows the entire course of the war in North Carolina, there are few events that mark its early stages. He notes the cultural differences that exacerbated violence in the Cherokee War of 1776. Here, restraints on what was acceptable behavior in war were loosened due to the racial as well as cultural differences that separated Native Americans from whites. The Cherokees were 'others', and therefore not subject to the same treatment as was reserved for European-Americans, whether British regulars or loyalists.

The real centerpiece of the second part of the book, however, is the fighting that raged in the state between 1780 and 1782. Lee's inquiry here focuses on how the mesh of social restraints on violence came undone during the latter phases of the

war. The author hangs much of the responsibility for the atrocities that took place in the backcountry on the militia. He develops several explanations for this contention. First, the very organization of the militia led it to be more prone to act as a retaliatory force. It was called out for short periods, often to act in response to loyalist activities and when it was called upon, the militia often acted under different officers. Furthermore, these officers relied to a large extent on the willingness of their troops to follow orders. They therefore looked the other way when retaliation exceeded what was considered acceptable. At the same time, the structure of the government itself was not strong enough to hold back the retaliatory violence. Still, the militia on many occasions sought the prize of legitimacy as well. Even in excess they mimicked judicial process; there were summary trials, after which prisoners were sometimes hung. There occurred occasions of restraint as well, again, these connect to the desire felt both by the Whigs and loyalists to achieve and maintain the impression that they were the sanctioned authority in the region.

Finally, *Crowds and Soldiers* is the kind of book that requires a fair amount of time. It is not the type of book that a reader can skim in an afternoon. It has to be read and considered in small sections in order to grasp the full implications of Wayne Lee's arguments. This investment, however, pays ample dividends as it opens up new avenues of understanding. After reading *Crowds and Soldiers* it is impossible to read another account of the fighting in the Carolina backcountry without making some connection to the paths of interpretation Lee maps out.

**Jim McIntyre** Moraine Valley Community College, IL. ★

## Web Pages recommended by John Mills (Princeton Battlefield State Park, NJ)

American Revolution battles & skirmishes  
<http://revwar75.com>

American Revolution- Military History  
<http://wwwskalman.nu/history/am-rev-war.htm>

Archiving Early America  
<http://www.earlyamerica.com>

American Revolution and links  
<http://www.americanrevolution.org>

Colonial America – Schooling and Education  
<http://alumni.cc.gettysburg.edu/~s330558/schooling.html>

Revolutionary War links  
<http://www.revwar.com>

Loyalist Studies Institute  
<http://www.royalprovincial.com>

Brigade of the American Revolution - reenactors  
<http://www.brigade.org>

The Continental Line – reenactors  
<http://www.continentalline.org>

The British Brigade – reenactors  
<http://www.britishbrigade.org>

Northwest Territory Alliance – reenactors  
<http://www.nwta.com>

★

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Please submit items to post upcoming Southern Campaigns programs and events that may be of interest to Revolutionary War researchers and history buffs.

**April 16-17, 2005 – Petersburg, Virginia** - 14th Annual Commemorative Battle Reenactment. This event is an observance of the Revolutionary War battle fought in Petersburg on April 25, 1781, and is an open event for all Revolutionary War period reenactors and free to visitation by the general public. For further information write or call: Director of Tourism, 15 West Bank Street, Petersburg, VA 23804 Telephone: (804) 733-2402 / 733-2404 FAX: (804) 861-0883 E-mail: [petgtourism@earthlink.net](mailto:petgtourism@earthlink.net) <http://www.petersburg-va.org/revwar/invitation.htm>

**April 23 and 24th, 2005. Musgrove's Mill State Historic Site, Clinton, SC** - 3rd Annual Living History Festival - Living History Camp with both military and civilian re-enactment units. Weapons and tactics demonstrations, grounds tours, and more. Call 864-938-0100 or email [brobson@scprt.com](mailto:brobson@scprt.com)

**April 30-May 1, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC** - Hesse-Kassel Jaeger Korps encampment; re-enactors, representing the German troops who fought in the Revolution, will be camped at the park. Soldiers will demonstrate the unique Jaeger rifle, used to combat the American long rifle in the Revolution. <http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html>

**April 30, 2005 – Point South, Yemessee, SC** - 2nd Annual Tullifinny Trot 10 km run and 2 mile walk along a portion of the trail starting at 9:00 am. This race commemorates the 226<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Coosawhatchie and the establishment of the Revolutionary War Trail. Packet pick-up is from 7:30 to 8:30 AM at the trailhead on race day. Proceeds will benefit the Revolutionary War Trail Foundation. Contact Dave Jirousek at the Lowcountry Council of Governments for additional information on the event. (843) 726-5536 <http://www.lowcountryrevtrail.org/events.php>

**May 12, 2005 – Charleston, SC** – The Charleston Museum hosts “THE SIEGE OF CHARLESTON, 1780” - LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING AT 6:30 p.m. Museum’s Assistant Director, Carl Borick, presents a lecture and signing of his book, *A Gallant Defense* which examines the reasons for the shift in British strategy to the rebellious southern colonies, the efforts of their army and navy to seize Charleston. In addition to covering the military aspects of the campaign around Charleston, the book also delves into the effect that it had on the civilians of the South Carolina Lowcountry. <http://www.charlestonmuseum.org/event.asp?ID=54>

**May 13-15, 2005 - Charleston, SC** – celebrate the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Siege of Charleston: Revolutionary War Days at Drayton Hall, Middleton and Magnolia Plantations. <http://www.revwarcharleston.com>

**May 13, 2005 - Charleston, SC** - Grand British Ball at Charleston’s Old Exchange Building, from 7:15pm until midnight. Authentic 1780 Grand British Ball at Charleston's Old Exchange Building to celebrate the fall of Charleston to the British Crown Forces and toast King George III as part of the 225th Anniversary of the Siege & Fall of Charleston. Participants must be in period correct clothing for the 1780 time period in either British military dress or civilian attire. Continental army uniforms are inappropriate. Music will be provided by the Charleston Chamber Orchestra. Dance caller will be John Millar of Colonial Williamsburg. Hors d'oeuvre, finger foods, and non-alcoholic

drinks are included. Ticket cost is \$35 per person and all net proceeds going towards educational programs on the American Revolution. Tickets limited to 180 persons. For more information: <http://www.charlestonball.org>

**May 13-19, 2005 – Knoxville, Tennessee** – HistoryAmerica Tours presents a bus tour: The Overmountain Men, From Sycamore Shoals To Kings Mountain, hosted by Edwin C. Bearss. [http://www.historyamerica.com/tours/overmountain\\_men.htm](http://www.historyamerica.com/tours/overmountain_men.htm)

**May 21, 2005 - Ninety Six, SC - Living History Saturdays** Living History volunteers (in period dress) show and acquire early American daily living skills. Examples are woodworking, fireplace cooking, candle making, baking in the Beehive oven, and repairing shingle roofs.

**May 28-29, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC** - “Military Through the Ages”. Soldiers representing each period of American history will discuss uniforms and demonstrate historic weapons. <http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html>

**May 27, 2005 – Lancaster, SC** – 7:00 pm lectures at Stevens Auditorium, USC Lancaster: Dr. Anthony Scotti, Jr., a reenactor and the author of *Brutal Virtue: The Myth and Reality of Banastre Tarleton*, will discuss the British Legion. Presidential historian Dr. Hendrik Booraem, author of *Young Hickory: The Making of Andrew Jackson* will discuss Col. Abraham Buford’s Continental troops. These lectures are free and the public is invited. For more information contact Laura Ledford, interpretive ranger at [lledford@scprt.com](mailto:lledford@scprt.com) or see [www.southcarolinaparks.com/documents/midlands\\_4.pdf](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com/documents/midlands_4.pdf)

**May 28-29, 2005 – Lancaster, SC** - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Col. Abraham Buford’s defeat at the Battle of the Waxhaws (Buford’s Massacre). Weekend educational and commemorative events planned at the Andrew Jackson State Park, Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church and Buford’s Battlefield Park. <http://www.discoversouthcarolina.com/whattodo/revwar.asp>

**June 4-5, 2005 - Beckhamville (Great Falls), SC** - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the skirmish at Alexander’s Old Field. <http://www.battleofbeckhamville.com/index.html>

**June 11-12, 2005 – Lincolnton, NC** - Battle of Ramseur’s Mill 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event featuring free Bar-B-Que, and for campers, straw, wood, and water are available as well as choice camp sites. Events are still in planning stages including a real shooting match with the 1st prize being a custom made rifle by Todd Carpenter, gunsmith. Hosted by Locke's Militia and Davie's Partisan Rangers. For more information contact Darrell Harkey at 704-736-8442 or email [hiscord@charter.net](mailto:hiscord@charter.net) .

**June 18, 2005 - Ninety Six, SC - Living History Saturdays** Living History volunteers (in period dress) show and acquire early American daily living skills. Examples are woodworking, fireplace cooking, candle making, baking in the Beehive oven, and repairing shingle roofs.

**June 25-26, 2005 – Salem Crossroads, SC (near Winnsboro, SC)** - The Battle of Mobley’s Meetinghouse 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. A small band of Whig militia under Capt. John McClure, Maj. Richard Winn, and Col. William Bratton attacked and dispersed a gathering of local Tory militia in northwest Fairfield County, South Carolina near the Little River in early summer of 1780. The re-enactment will be held on the grounds of the historic Feasterville Female Academy and Boarding House, 7 miles north of Salem Crossroads on SC Highway 215 North. The public is invited to watch morning drills, an encampment, and a small re-

enactment will bring this historic event to life. Contact Pelham Lyles at Fairfield County Museum, 231 South Congress Street, Winnsboro, SC 29180. 803-635-9811 or [fairfieldmus@chestertel.com](mailto:fairfieldmus@chestertel.com)

**June 25, 2005 - Museum of York County, Rock Hill, SC - *Liberty or Death: Rebels and Loyalists in the Southern Piedmont***, an exhibition on the Revolutionary War in the Carolina backcountry between 1780-1782, opens at The Museum of York County, 4621 Mt. Gallant Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732. <http://www.chmuseums.org/HBrevexhibit.htm>

**June 27, 2005 – Charleston Museum - BATTLE OF SULLIVAN’S ISLAND** 6:30 p.m. In school, students learned that Gen. William Moultrie commanded the fort on Sullivan’s Island, Gen. Charles Lee doubted the fort would hold, Sgt. William Jasper selflessly jumped upon the parapet to replant the blue rebel flag and the backcountry S.C. Militia and SC Continentals, commanded by Col. William “Danger” Thompson of Belleville plantation, stopped Lord Cornwallis’ Army at Breach Inlet. But, what happened to the main characters in the drama that was the Battle of Sullivan’s Island once all the smoke cleared? Carl Borick, assistant museum director, will lecture on the interesting fates of the heroes and villains of the famous battle in commemoration of Carolina Day (June 28). <http://www.charlestonmuseum.org/event.asp?ID=55>

**July 8, 2005 - McCelvey Center, York, SC and the Museum of York County, Rock Hill, SC - 8:00 AM—5:00 PM.** “Huck’s Defeat and the Revolution in the South Carolina Backcountry, May-July 1780,” a symposium at the McCelvey Center, 212 East Jefferson Street, York, SC 29745. Presentations: “The British Strategy in the South in 1779 and 1780” by Dr. Rory Cornish, Associate Professor of History and History Department Chair, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC; “The Partisan Counteroffensive in the Carolina Backcountry in the Summer of 1780” by Dr. Walter Edgar, Claude Henry Neuffer Professor of Southern Studies and the George Washington Distinguished Professor of History, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; “Loyalist Mobilization in the Carolina Backcountry in the Summer of 1780” by Dr. Carole Troxler, retired Professor of American History at Elon University, North Carolina; “Provincial Soldiers at the Battle of Huck’s Defeat” by Todd Braisted, commander of the Brigade of the American Revolution and creator/editor of The Online Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies; “Rev. John Simpson, Presbyterian Minister and Rebel Leader” by Melissa Massey, research assistant at Kennesaw State University and curatorial assistant at the Root House Museum, Marietta, Ga.; “Whig and Tory Leaders at the Battle of Huck’s Defeat” and “The Battle of Huck’s Defeat” by Michael Scoggins, research historian, Culture & Heritage Museums, York, SC. Followed by a reception at the Museum of York County to highlight the opening of the *Liberty or Death* exhibition. <http://www.chmuseums.org/HBhucksymp.htm>

**July 9-10, 2005 – Brattonsville, SC - Battle of Huck’s Defeat at Williamson’s Plantation.** Historic Brattonsville hosts a 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of this backcountry Patriot victory. Saturday, July 9, will feature reenactments of Huck’s Defeat at Williamson’s Plantation on the actual site of this Patriot victory and Gen. Thomas Sumter’s first action as commandant of the SC Militia at the Battle of Rocky Mount. Sunday, July 10 will feature reenactments of the Battle of Stallions (or Stallings) Plantation, which took place in York County in the late summer of 1780, and Gen. Sumter’s victory at the second Battle of Hanging Rock. For fans of Revolutionary War battle reenactments, this promises to be a great weekend. Saturday activities will also include a reunion, at Historic Brattonsville, of descendants of the men who fought on both sides of the Battle of Huck’s Defeat, including descendants of

Whig militiamen, Tory militiamen, and Provincial soldiers of the British Legion and New York Volunteers. A list of known and probable soldiers who fought in this battle is posted at <http://www.chmuseums.org/HBancestors.htm> and the organizers are actively seeking to communicate with descendants of these soldiers.

<http://www.chmuseums.org/HBhucksymp.htm>

**July 16 & August 20, 2005 - Ninety Six, SC - Living History Saturdays** Living History volunteers (in period dress) show and acquire early American daily living skills. Examples are woodworking, fireplace cooking, candle making, baking in the Beehive oven, and repairing shingle roofs.

**August 20-21, 2005 – Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, Camden, SC - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Camden** programs and reenactment of the patriot defeat, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm daily. Visit the military and camp followers camps; see battle reenactments on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. Shop at sulters row, attend a Patriot’s funeral, courts-martial, round-table talk, period fashion show & dancing and children’s activities. Admission charged. <http://www.historic-camden.net> and <http://camden225th.org/index.htm>

**August 20, 2005 – Musgrove’s Mill State Historic Site, Clinton, SC - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Patriot victory at the Battle of Musgrove’s Mill.** Guided tour of the battlefield followed by a memorial service at the battlefield. Space is limited, contact Brian L. Robson, Interpretive Ranger, Musgrove Mill State Historic Site 864-938-0100 [brobson@scprt.com](mailto:brobson@scprt.com)

**September 3, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Kings Mountain Forum** will feature a Colonial Trade and Craft Fair, music and military camps. Musician Ken Bloom will also be performing. <http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html>

**September 17, 2005 – Laurens County/Newberry County, SC - The Belfast House** at 10:00 am (rain make-up 24th Sept.) Revolutionary War hero Gen. James Williams Bridge dedication and naming ceremony and with wreath laying, followed by installing the pistol that the State of North Carolina gave to Col. James Williams to the museum at Musgrove Mill State Historic Site and a tour of Laurens County Revolutionary War historic sites.

**October 6-7 – Congregation Mickve Israel – Monterey Square, Savannah, Georgia.** The last remains of Polish American Revolutionary War hero, Gen. Casimir Pulaski, the father of the Patriot cavalry, will lie in state in the temple before reinterment in the Pulaski Monument in Monterey Square on October 7, 2005. A memorial service will be held at Mickve Israel on October 6, 2005 at 6:00 pm. The Mickve Israel Temple museum also honors Savannah Patriot Col. Mordecai Sheftall, who served as Deputy Commissary General of Issues for all Continental Troops in South Carolina and Georgia and Commissary General of Georgia troops. For museum tours, see <http://www.mickveisrael.org> .

**October 7-8, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain and Grand Re-opening of Museum** Hundreds of reenactors will bring the past to life. Museum renovation will be complete and brand new exhibits will tell the story of the battle. 11 AM Wreath laying ceremony. 3 PM Guest speaker and arrival of Overmountain Victory Trail marchers. <http://www.nps.gov/kimo/pphtml/events.html>

**October 8, 2005 - Ninety Six, SC - Annual Candlelight Tour** - Guided tours proceed along the one-mile historic trail, which is illuminated by the soft glow of candlelight and torchlight. Along the way, costumed volunteers portray Colonial citizens and soldiers who tell stories of peace and war at old Ninety Six in the 1700's. Tours begin at 7 pm & leave every 10 minutes until 8:20pm

**October 15-16, 2005 - Summerton, SC** - American Revolutionary Living History Encampment/Re-enactment and Wildlife Expo. 4th Celebration of "Victory at Fort Watson" at the Santee National Wildlife Refuge, I-95, Exit 102, US 15/301, Summerton, SC. To commemorate the 225th anniversary for the 1780 South Carolina campaigns. Please check website for updates: [www.francismariontrail.com](http://www.francismariontrail.com) or call: 803-478-2217 or 803-478-2645.

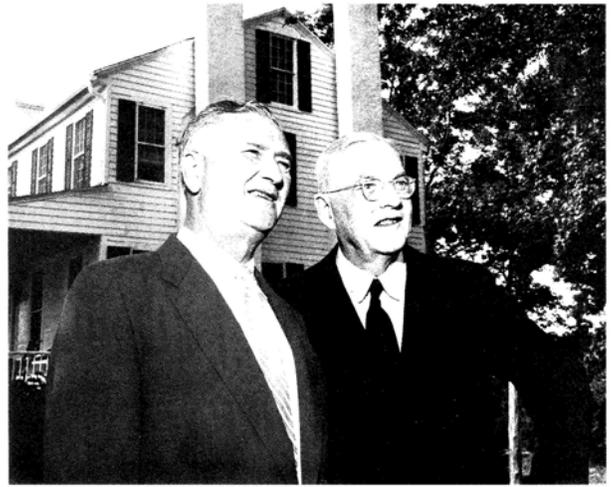
**October 22, 2005 – Brattonsville, SC** - Historic Brattonsville will host a reenactment of the Battle of King's Mountain, fought in York County on October 7, 1780. Probably the most famous battle of the Southern campaign, this Patriot victory is often cited as "the turning point of the American Revolution," and has also been described as the Southern militia's finest hour. To be placed on a mailing list and receive registration materials for York County Cultural History Museum 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events, contact Jeannie Marion, CHM Director of Marketing and Public Information, at [jemarion@chmuseums.org](mailto:jemarion@chmuseums.org).

**November 5-6, 2004 – Camden, SC – "Camden 1774"**. 10 am to 5 p.m. daily featuring: Camden Grand Jury, Royal militias drill, military music, period fashion show and dancing, military roundtable discussion, 18th century church services, and kids' activities. Colonial craftsmen and demonstrations and sutlers row teaming with unique traditional 18th century gifts. <http://www.historic-camden.net> ★



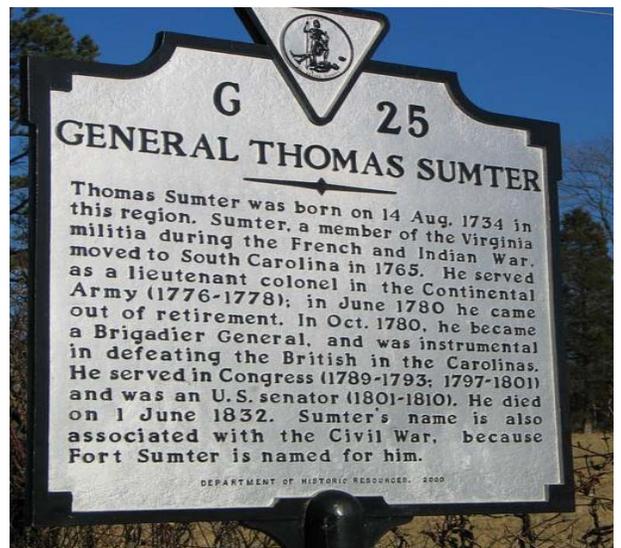
**Avenue of majestic Live Oaks leads into the unmarked Shubrick's Plantation battleground on Quinby Creek, site of the Sumter "Dog Days of Summer" fight against British Col. John Coates. This is private property; no trespassing.**

**Right:** Contemporary engraving of the three Cherokee warriors who were celebrities when Sgt. Sumter and Lt. Henry Timberlake presented them to social London in 1762.



Congressman J.P. "Dick" Richards and United States secretary of state, John Foster Dulles.

**Sumter battlefield tourist visited the beautiful Ingram-Horton-Richards House (shown in the background) on the Hanging Rock battlefield, site of 1950s meetings between cold warriors, US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Congressman J. P. "Dick" Richards, chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee.**



Roadside historic marker to Gen. Thomas Sumter in Virginia.



# Reverend Oliver Hart's<sup>iv</sup> Diary of the Journey to the Backcountry<sup>v</sup>

Transcribed and annotated by William T. Graves

## Background:

At the inception of the American Revolution, the area of South Carolina between the Saluda and Broad Rivers was a hotbed of loyalist sentiment. Col. Thomas Fletchall, a resident of the Fairforest area and the commander of that area's militia, and many of his officers and men were known to hold strong loyalist views. On Saturday, July 22, 1775, the South Carolina Council of Safety, the 13-member committee appointed by the First Provincial Congress to discharge the legislative and executive duties of government while the Congress was not in session, resolved "...to send two gentlemen into the back country, particularly to that part of it where Col. Fletchall resides, to inform and enlighten the people there in regard to the unhappy dispute subsisting between Great Britain and America." The next day, the Council appointed one of its own members, William Henry Drayton, together with the Rev. William Tennent, to serve as the two representatives to the backcountry. Drayton was a member of one of South Carolina's wealthiest and most aristocratic families. Tennent was pastor of the Independent Church in Charleston, a graduate of Princeton with a master's degree from Harvard, and a powerfully influential man among the Presbyterians residing in South Carolina.

In making the appointment, the Council adopted the following commissions and powers to be exercised by Drayton and Tennent:

## In the Council of Safety Charles-Town, July 22d, 1775

The Council of Safety, elected and chosen by the Provincial Congress, begun to be holden on the first day of June last, by these Presents, testify, that they have nominated, appointed, and commissioned the Hon. William Henry Drayton, and the Rev. William Tennent, to go into the interior parts of this Colony, at the public expense; there to explain to the people at large, the nature of the unhappy public disputes between Great Britain and the American Colonies; to endeavor to settle all political disputes between the people; to quiet their minds; and to force the necessity of a general union, in order to preserve themselves and their children from slavery. And that the said William Henry Drayton, and William Tennent, may proceed in this business with safety and advantage to the public, all the friends of the liberties of America are hereby requested to afford them every necessary aid, assistance and protection.

....[in furtherance of this commission, Drayton and Tennent were given the following sweeping powers]...

Gentlemen—in order to give you every necessary and proper support and protection in your progress into the country, in execution of our commission of this date, you are hereby authorized to call upon all and every Officer of the Militia and Rangers for, and they, and each of them, are hereby ordered to furnish such assistance, support and protection, as you shall deem necessary.

By order of the Council of Safety.

On Wednesday July 26, 1775, before Drayton and Tennent could depart on their mission, the Council voted to add the Rev. Oliver Hart as a third member of the group of ambassadors to the backcountry. As a Baptist minister who had taken the leading role in the formation of the Baptist church in South Carolina and

who had ordained most, if not all, of the backcountry Baptist clergy, Hart's presence on the commission no doubt enhanced its chances for success in an area where there was a large Baptist presence. Also, since he was neither a wealthy aristocrat nor the product of education at one of America's leading universities, he brought to the commission an ability to relate to the residents of the Carolina backcountry that Drayton and Tennent did not possess.

Fortunately, like his companions on this commission, Hart kept a diary of his travels in the backcountry. That diary follows.

## The Diary:

**Monday July 31<sup>st</sup> 1775:** Set off for \_\_\_\_ reached Capt. Benjamin Screven's<sup>vi</sup> at Goose Creek about 9 o'clock, wrote \_\_\_\_\_ and lodged there.

**Tuesday Augt. 1<sup>st</sup>:** Set off about 9 o'clock A. M. \_\_\_\_ at Monks Corner. Reached \_\_\_\_\_ Banister's about 6 P.M. wrote to Mrs. Hart;<sup>vii</sup> lodged there.

**Wednesday Augt 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Set off about 6 o'clock reached the Eutaw Spring before 10 o'clock, stayed and dined there. Had an opportunity of writing to Mrs. Hart by one \_\_\_\_\_. A little after 2 I again set off & reached Major \_\_\_\_ where I took up my lodgings on a hard bed.

**Thursday Augt 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Rode about 12 Miles to Doc. Bulline's, was kindly received; spent the Day there; heard that Col. Fletchall<sup>viii</sup> had returned his answer to an Express sent to Him by Col. Thompson,<sup>ix</sup> and had dismissed all his Men to 300 after having first sworn them. Wrote to Mr. Newton<sup>x</sup> to meet me at Congarees or Fair Forest, sent under cover Col. Richardson<sup>xi</sup> also to Mrs. Hart. [two lines illegible] \_\_\_\_.

**[Friday, Augt. 4<sup>th</sup>]:** About \_\_ o'clock, was overtaken with hard rain, rode an Hour in it; reached Col. Thompson's about 12; dined there, the Col. not at Home, set off ½ after two, crossed McCord's Ferry<sup>xii</sup> ½ after 3. I intended to go as far as Mr. Simon Hiron's,<sup>xiii</sup> but finding it would be late and the way bad, put up at Mr. Pettigrew Salsbury's<sup>xiv</sup> where I had the pleasure of sleeping on a good Bed. This is an aged Couple, the Man 73, the Woman 60, they have been married \_\_\_\_ years, have had 12 Children; but, what is a little extraordinary, they declare that they never have had the least Quarrel, Contention or Bickerings between them. An uncommon Instance \_\_\_\_ of conjugal Felicity, and proved that there is a possibility of Happiness in the Married State. This good Woman says all may be thus happy, if they will.

**Saturday Augt 5<sup>th</sup>:** After taking a small \_\_\_\_ of Hoe Cake, Butter Cheese and \_\_\_\_\_ set off [remainder of line missing.] kind old Gentlemen went with me, my Pilot arrived at Mr. Hiron's a little before 8 o'clock. Was kindly entertained, and tarried there all Day, had a good Bed at Night. I communicated my Business to Mr. Hiron's, who approved of the Scheme and wished me Success; hope I have the Prayers of many of God's Children which I highly value.

**Lord's Day Augt. ye 6<sup>th</sup>:** Went to Mr. Reese's<sup>xv</sup> Meeting, preached to a good Congregation from John: 8:36 Had much Freedom, and took the Liberty to apply ye subject of the Times; here I met my dear Br. Rees, and prevailed with Him to go with and assist me in the grand Design of this Excursion, this I look upon as a favourable Providence. Here I also saw my good Friend Col. Richardson, who is going upon the same Errand with myself. Went from the Meeting to Mrs. Goodwin's,<sup>xvi</sup> wrote a Letter to my Nancy, and lodged there.

**Monday Augt. ye 7<sup>th</sup>:** Borrowed a Horse from Mr. Rees, with whom I traveled about, crossed Congaree River at Dr. Farren's, \_\_\_ or 15 miles to Mr. Chestnut's,<sup>xvii</sup> where I met with Mr. Drayton & Mr. Tennent, with whom I consulted about my Journey; lodged there; wrote to Nancy.

**Tuesday Augt. 8<sup>th</sup>:** Being provided with horses my Companion & I set off from Mr. Chestnut's about 11 O'clock A.M. traveled about 9 Miles and crossed Saludy River at Weaver's Ferry about 7 Miles above the Fork, we dined here and bated our Horses then rode about 13 Miles and passed by Mr. Wm. McLauden's Store<sup>xviii</sup> then proceeded ¼ Mile to Mr. Michael Boyer's Tavern and there put for the Night. We lay on a thin Bed spread on the Floor, hard enough, but I slept pretty well considering.

**Wednesday Augt. ye 9<sup>th</sup>:** Rose early traveled about 10 miles to one Mr. Colonel's Tavern on Cannons Creek in the Forks between Saludy and Broad River, breakfasted, & wrote a letter to Mrs. Hart; Caldwell being set off for Charles Town Tomorrow, with his wagon. We are now in a fine country; high Land & good water. Traveled to one Mr. John Conner on Enoree at a place called Cane Brake where we arrived about 4 o'clock. This is a Baptist Family, the People requested us to tarry with them all night and give them a Sermon, we consented; we sent out and soon gathered about 50 of the neighbors I preached to them from Gal. 5 \_\_\_ stand fast; & I took occasion to speak on the State of national affairs, they heard with Attention, and I was told one opposer was convinced and sharply reproved one who quarreled with the Sermon. Lodged on a good Bed.

**Thursday Augt. 10<sup>th</sup>:** Crossed Enoree, and rode about a mile or little better & breakfasted with one Mr. Waddleton<sup>xix</sup> where we had some Coffee; set off from thence and missed out Way twice; once before and once after we crossed Paget's Creek, came down to one Mr. Potts's on Tyger River, we took up this River to Fincher's Ford where we crossed the River, and then traveled on to Revd. Mr. Mulkey's;<sup>xx</sup> were kindly received; Mrs. Mulkey was ill, the rest of the Family well. Found myself a good deal fatigued, but sat up till after Midnight, and then lay down to rest. -Upon discoursing with Mr. Mulkey, found that He rather sides with ministerial Measures, and is against those adopted by the Country. Altho' He profess Himself diffculted about these Things; The People, in general, are certainly (as they say) for the King; ie, for the Minister, & his Measures; one Man, with whom we conversed, fairly trembled through Madness.

**Friday Augt. ye 11<sup>th</sup>:** Rose in Health, but somewhat fatigued; Some of the Neighbors came to see us, with whom we had much Conversation about the present States of the Times; found them so fixed on the Side of the Ministry, that no argument on the contrary Side seemed to have any Weight with them; they generally acknowledge that they know but little about the Matter and yet are fixed; generally they have signed Col. Fletchall's Association;<sup>xxi</sup> which is a jejune incoherent Piece, but serves to delude the People into Measures which I fear will prove of bad Consequences. A Meeting was appointed for Sermon this Evening, 20 or 30 came together, altho it had rained most of the afternoon; it being put upon me to preach, I treated on Cant. [Song of Solomon] 5. ult: He is altogether lovely; had some Freedom, but the people seemed but little affected. After Sermon, Mr. Rees conversed with several about ye State of our national Concerns, who seemed to be extremely obstinate, on the Minister's Side; one of them wished 1000 Bostonians might be killed in Battle. One wished there was not a grain of salt in any of the sea Coast Towns on the Continent. On the whole they appear to be obstinate and irritated to an Extreme.

**Saturday Augt. 12<sup>th</sup>:** Rose refreshed; about 11 O'clock went to Meeting, Br. Rees preached from Isaiah: 17.7 At that Day a Man

shall look to his Maker &: After Sermon had some Conversation with Col. Fletchall, who declared that He had no Intention of fighting against his Country Men, but at the same Time highly disapproved of the Measures fallen upon to preserve our Rights, and complained of sundry Threats which He says are given out against Himself, and the Inhabitants of the Frontiers. A number of People gathered round us while we were conversing together, who seemed almost universally, by Words & actions to applaud every Thing the Col. said. Upon the Whole there appears but little Reason, as yet, to hope that these People will be brought to have a suitable Regard to ye interest of America. I wish their Eyes may be opened before it is too late. Rode Home with Mr. Mulkey, lodged there.

**Lord's Day Augt. 13<sup>th</sup>:** Went to Meeting at the usual Time, preached from 1.Cor: 3.11; had much Freedom in Preaching, and the People seemed to hear with much attention. After Sermon met with Br. Newton, was much rejoiced to see Him. After a proper Intermission Br. Rees preached from Isaiah: 24.37. He was exceeding warm and held out near two Hours; when Mr. Rees had finished one Mary Ray,<sup>xxii</sup> one of the Sisters got up, and gave us a Prayer, Mr. Rees then sung and dismissed the assembly. Went home with Mr. Mulkey, Mr. Newton in Company, who gave us an account of the distracted State of the frontier Inhabitants, which at present wears the most alarming Face; insomuch that there is the greatest appearance of a civil War; unless God, by some remarkable Interposition of Providence prevent.

**Monday Augt. 14<sup>th</sup>:** This Day attended a Meeting of a Number of the Inhabitants; which Meeting was appointed by Mr. Mulkey Yesterday. Here one Major Robertson<sup>xxiii</sup> Read a ministerial Piece,<sup>xxiv</sup> called an Address to the People of America. It is wrote in opposition to the Congress, and well calculated to fix the Minds of all disaffected Persons. With Sorrow I saw Marks of approbation set almost on every Countenance. I find that Col. Fletchall has all those people at his beck, and reigns amongst them like a little King. This magic Robertson had been with the Governor,<sup>xxv</sup> and no doubt has brought proper instructions to Col. Fletchall. Robertson brings word that fifteen sail of men of war were lying off Charles Town when he left town; If this be true, perhaps that devoted town may now be reduced to ashes; and God knows how it fares with my dear wife and Family. I hope they are safe, having left them in the hands of a good God & hold, shield and defend them from all Evil for thy great names sake. amen. In this meeting Col. Fletchall intimated that the people below wanted them to go down and assist them against the Negroes, but he would be a Fool that would go; to which one answered, they will not get a man from here. Query: Doth not this contradict the Col.'s association, in which it is declared that one part of their purpose is to suppress insurrections of Negroes? This evening before we lay down to rest, Brother Mulkey requested that he might wash my feet; with some reluctance I consented, after declaring that I did not believe it to be an ordinance of Christ, he then, being girded with a towel, and having water in a basin with great humility and affection, proceeded to wash my feet, talking religiously and affectionately all the time; he then washed Br. Newton's feet, and then Br. washed his; afterwards we went to rest.

**Tuesday Augt. 15<sup>th</sup>:** Lay by this Day at Brother Mulkey's. Nothing material happened, save that I heard that Mr. Drayton and Br. Tennent are expected to be up at Col. Fletchall's Tomorrow. I wish they would come, for I am tired doing nothing.

**Wednesday Augt. 16<sup>th</sup>:** This morning Br: Mulkey went out on a preaching excursion. I tarried at his house until evening, and then rode home with Mr. Nehemiah Howard<sup>xxvi</sup> (in company with Mr. Rees) where I tarried all night. This man seems to be more considerate about national affairs than anyone I have met with in these parts; He seems sensible of our oppressions and of the

necessity of resisting ministerial measures. I wish all the Inhabitants were like minded.

**Thursday Augt. 17<sup>th</sup>:** Hearing this morning that Messrs: Drayton and Tennent were at Col. Fletchall's, we went thither, and found them surrounded with a number of people, who had come together to hear them talk; here were Captain Cunningham<sup>xxvii</sup> (a bitter enemy to the province) and merchant Brown<sup>xxviii</sup> (who had been lately tarred and feathered for his opposition -- here was my good friend Col. Richardson, and many others). We were here informed of a late engagement; or battle, in which (it is said) that the Regulars had lost 9000 men and the Provincials 4000, that General Gage was taken prisoner, and General Washington wounded in the arm. etc: <sup>xxix</sup> in the evening returned to Nehemiah Howard's and lodged there. Good bed.

**Friday Augt. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Went this morning to Mr. Mulkey's, took breakfast, rode to Col. Fletchall's to see Mr. Tennent, who was gone, a few minutes before we arrived. We then took up into the country, for Lawson's Fork, <sup>xxx</sup> came in the evening to Captain John Woods, <sup>xxxi</sup> were kindly received, and rested in a good bed. This Captain and his men are on the side of liberty, and have signed the association, altho he belongs to Fletchall's regiment. The people are in general on the Congress side.

**Saturday Augt. 19<sup>th</sup>:** Rode this morning from Capt: John Woods to his brother James Woods, about 6 miles. Br: Woods was from home, but his wife received us kindly. I am now at Lawson's Fork about 220 miles from Charles Town here is a Baptist Church constituted by Mr. Skolman in Feb. 73 lay by today, am to preach tomorrow if which sent out word. In the evening Br; Wood came home, in company with sundry gentlemen, He received us kindly.

**Lord's Day Augt. 20<sup>th</sup>:** Went to meeting found a good congregation, preached from John: 1:29. Some freedom. Examined and baptized Jonathan Clark, <sup>xxxii</sup> before the whole congregation, then returned to Mr. Woods, lodged there.

**Monday, Augt. 21<sup>st</sup>:** Rode to Capt: Waford's where I met with Mr. Drayton, and a large number of people assembled together; Mr. Rees opened the meeting by singing and prayer, then Mr. Drayton spoke to them, above an hour, on the state of affairs in the nation; the people gave good attention, and upwards of 70 signed the association. A beef was barbecued, on which we dined, I then rode home with Capt. John Wood, and lodged there.

**Tuesday Augt. 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Set off after breakfast, rode but a few miles before we were over taken with a shower of rain, we put in at one Mr. Gibbes, tarried there and took dinner then set off on our Journey. In \_\_\_ ways from an \_\_\_ we had a prospect of the mountains at the Heads of Tyger and Catawba Rivers. Crossed Tyger River, passed by Capt. William Wafford's<sup>xxxiii</sup> and in the dusk of the evening arrived at Mr. Spenser Bobo's<sup>xxxiv</sup> lodged there.

**Wednesday Augt. 23<sup>rd</sup>:** This morning to Mr. John Ford's<sup>xxxv</sup> where I met with Mr. Tennent and Mr. Drayton; and a number of people who by appointment had gathered together to hear what was to be said in publick affairs. Mr. Drayton first spoke and spoke well to the purpose. Kirkland<sup>xxxvi</sup> then rose up and opposed him in virulent, reflecting and \_\_\_\_\_ terms. Mr. Drayton resented personal reflections; wild altercations ensued. Col. Fletchall stepped in and the fray ended. Mr. Tennent then spoke for a long time, was warm and affecting, Brown interrupted him several times, but to little purpose, Brown then read the ministerial book, but the people dispersed and about 60 signed the association. We dined at Mr. Fords and then Mr. Rees and I rode home with one Thomas Qwin, on Duncan's Creek, where we lodged. This man

and his wife are Baptist; and belong to Thomas Norris<sup>xxxvii</sup> Church, not but 12 Baptists in the parts.

**Thursday Augt. 24<sup>th</sup>:** Went this morning to a meeting in the neighborhood appointed by and for, Mr. Norris, there were gathered about 50 people; Mr. Newton was speaking to them when we arrived. Mr. Rees preached from Cor: 15.57, But thanks be to God, etc: I then spoke from John: 21.15 Ult: Feed my Lambs. I was a little discomposed on account of Mr. Norris being unwilling that I should say any thing about national affairs, and had not much freedom in preaching that I could have wished. It rained exceeding hard today, and one clap of Thunder was very sharp, and, I believe startled many. It was near sun-set when meeting broke up; rode home again with Mr. Qwin, and spent the evening comfortably with Messrs: Rees, Newton and some others.

**Friday Augt 25<sup>th</sup>:** Labored with Thomas Norris to convince him of the utility of standing up for liberty. Concluded to stay, and preach in the neighbourhood next Sabbath. Mr. Rees went with Mr. Norris to Warrior's Creek, to converse with the people about ye main concern. I concluded to lie by today and tomorrow. Am sorry I have no more success. Appointed to be at Bush River next Tuesday. This evening, two or three of the neighbours being present, expounded John 14 beginning, sung, prayed, conversed and then went to rest.

**Saturday Augt. 26<sup>th</sup>:** Lay by this day at Mr. Owen's, on Duncan's Creek.

**Lord's Day Augt. 27<sup>th</sup>:** Word having been given out that there would be sermon at the Presbyterian' meeting house on Duncan's Creek today, I went thither, and Mr. Rees met us, being returned from Warriors Creek. The elders of the church held a consultation, whether or no we should be admitted into the house; at length they came with great form and, gave their consent. We then went in and I first preached from Mark 1.15. Repent ye, and believe the Gospel. Mr. Rees then preached from \_\_\_\_\_ 7.1. Through Mr. Rey I had much freedom today. This is a spacious meeting house, 50 by 30 built of hewn logs, but not finished. After service was over, Mr. Polok<sup>xxxviii</sup> (one of the elders) took us home with him; where I took up my lodgings for the night, on a tolerable good bed.

**Monday Augt. 28<sup>th</sup>:** Through mercy, rested pretty well last night; it rained and thundered exceeding hard in the night the thunder continued for a long time even on, with one continual roar. I parted with Mr. Rees yesterday, and lay by today, at Mr. Polak's.

**Tuesday Augt. 29<sup>th</sup>:** It rained all last night, and this morning, which detained us some time; when it held up, set off attended by Mr. Polack, for Mr. Croswell's meeting House at Little River,<sup>xxxix</sup> crossed Indian Creek, and Bush River, which was very high; when I arrived at the meeting met a small congregation, the waters being high prevented many from coming out. Here I met with Mr. Tennent and Mr. Croswell. Preached from 2 Cor: 2.15 Where ye spirit of ye Lord. At the close I spoke a little to the publick concerns of the times. Mr. Tennent then spoke and answered many objections. Much time was taken up in conversation, and I hope some good was done. I then parted with Mr. Tennent and Mr. Croswell and went home with Mr. Greer; on the way crossed Bush River at a different ford from the one I crossed this morning, it was very high, got some water in one of my boots, but the horse did not swim. Arrived in the dusk of the evening at Mr. Greer's, lodged there. NB. Mrs. Mason<sup>xl</sup> drowned. Boy with 4 Fingers in each hand and 4 toes on each foot the woman had 4 children in 4 years.

**Wednesday Augt. 30<sup>th</sup>:** Set off after breakfast, but lost our way, in the evening came down upon Saludy River at Mr; Batee's Millhouse Ferry, this River was very high and ran rapidly, but we

got over safe, and found good entertainment. We crossed several deep creeks today.

**Thursday Augt. 31<sup>st</sup>:** We took early start this morning. breakfasted about 7 miles from our lodging at one Mr. Edwards's, then set off, passed by Juniper Springs, crossed the Sand-Hills and arrived at Congaree Stores about 5 O'clock, were kindly received by Mr. Chestnut. Rode through hard rain today: Traveled about 40 miles. NB. Mrs. Edwards under soul concern.

**Friday Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>:** It rained hard this morning, lay by at Mr. Chestnut's, dined there, and then the rain ceased, and. we set off, crossed Congaree at Friday's Folly,<sup>xii</sup> we found such water on the path, some places pretty deep. In the evening arrived at Mrs. Goodwin's: which place I had left the 7th ult: - All were well here, except Mrs. Goodwin's daughter who has the ague and fever. Lodged here.

**Saturday Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Rode this morning to Mr. Simon Hiron's, where I tarried the remaining part of the day, the waters exceeding high.

**Lord's Day Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Went this morning to the meeting in Toms Creek, met Mr. Rees, preached from John 1:29 Ult: had good freedom; afterwards rode (with some difficulty on account of the waters being so high) to Mr. McCords; arrived there before sunset but could not get over. -Heard this day at meeting, and had it confirmed this evening that Col. Thomson is marching up his men to take Mr. Kirkland.

**Monday Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>:** Somewhat detained this morning, on account of mending the boat, crossed the river, and dined at Col. Thomson's; read Mr. Drayton's letter,<sup>xiii</sup> to the Col. ordering him to march with his regiment to the Ridge, as also to order 600 of his company of militia to march to the Frontier and that Col. Richardson should march 600 of his company of militia to Broad River, about the mouth of Enoree, there to wait for further orders. -Have read in Wells Gazette that the Quebec bill<sup>xliii</sup> was repealed. Left Col. Thomson's about 3 o'clock rode about 20 miles to one Mr. Baldrick's, where I took up my lodging.

**Tuesday Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>:** Took an early start, rode about 10 miles & breakfasted at Mr. Burdell's; Went on & dined at Mr. Martin's, then proceeded to Monks Corner, where I took up my Lodging, having rode 50 miles today.

**Wednesday Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>:** Rose early and set off, hoping to see my dear Nancy and Family today; Breakfasted at Mr. Smith's and then proceeded on my journey, just as I arrived at the 10 Mile House it set in for rain & I made a halt, dined, the rain slacked, & I arrived home about 4 O'clock, found my family in pretty good state of health, my dear wife having lain in etc.

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<sup>iv</sup> Reverend Oliver Hart (1723-1795) was a Baptist minister originally from Pennsylvania. He came to South Carolina in 1749 in response to a call from Charleston Baptists. In 1751, he organized the first Baptist Association in the South and initiated a program for the education of Baptist ministers. He was the third member of the team appointed in 1775 by the First Council of Safety to travel into the South Carolina backcountry in an effort to win support of the residents there for the "Association" recently promulgated by the First Provincial Congress in reaction to the resolutions of the Continental Congress of 1774. (See footnote 5 below for the text of the Association.) The other two members of the team, William Henry Drayton and the Reverend William

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Tennent, both left extensive records of their mission into the backcountry. Drayton's notes detailing his involvement in the backcountry mission were published by his son in 1821 and are still available in print. John Drayton, *Memoirs of the American Revolution, From its Commencement to the Year 1776, Inclusive: As Relating to the State of South-Carolina: and Occasionally Referring to the States of North-Carolina and Georgia* (Reprinted by Arno Press, Inc., no place, 1969). Tennent's diary was published in 1894 in *Yearbook, City of Charleston, South Carolina* (Charleston, 1894), pp. 295-312. Until his diary was donated by his family in 1956 to the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina, it was thought that Hart left no record of his efforts. Hart, however, was a life-long diarist and, fortunately, his record is now safely preserved. A transcription of Hart's diary was published in *Journal of the South Carolina Baptist Historical Society*, Vol. 1, November 1975, pp.18-30 (hereinafter cited as *Journal*).

<sup>v</sup> This version of the Hart diary is adapted from the transcription made from the original by J. Glenwood Clayton and Loulie Latimer Owens as printed in *Journal*. In adapting the diary, each date's entry has been placed in a separate paragraph for ease of reading since the original consisted of one continuous paragraph. Also, the date of each entry has been typed in bold type for ease of reading. The spelling of words, but not proper names, has been updated and abbreviations or contractions in some cases have been expanded; all in an attempt to make the document more easily readable. In a somewhat futile attempt to confuse any opponent of his who might somehow gain access to the diary, Hart encoded a large portion of the diary using simple letter substitutions such as using "i" to represent "o" or "u." All such encoding has been omitted. The blanks that appear in this transcript appeared in the original transcript or represent illegible portions of the original diary.

<sup>vi</sup> Benjamin Screven served as a captain in the militia during 1775 and was a captain in the dragoons during 1779. Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution* (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1983). Hart's daughter, Eleanor (1750-1783), was the 3<sup>rd</sup> wife of Col. Thomas Smith Screven who was probably a relative of Benjamin Screven. See, [www.rootsweb.com/~gascreve/slineage.htm#Screven](http://www.rootsweb.com/~gascreve/slineage.htm#Screven). Col. Thomas S. Screven served in the South Carolina militia in 1775. Moss, *Patriots*, p. 852.

<sup>vii</sup> Hart's wife was Anne Maria Sealey (Grimball) who he affectionately refers to as "Nancy." She was his second wife. They married on April 5, 1774 and to this union was born one child who lived to maturity. Hart had four children who lived to maturity by his first wife, Sarah Brees.

<sup>viii</sup> Col. Thomas Fletchall (1725-1789) was a prominent Tory and militia commander who lived in the Fair Forest Creek area of what is now Union County, South Carolina. He and his militia unit were the primary targets of the efforts of the Drayton-Tennent-Hart mission because of their avowed loyalty to the Crown. The Council of Safety sent Fletchall a copy of the Association adopted by it with the request that he assemble his militia regiment and obtain the signatures of his officers and men on the Association. The Council's Association read:

The actual commencement of hostilities against this continent by the British troops, in the bloody scene on the 19th of April last near Boston-the increase of arbitrary impositions from a wicked and despotic ministry-and the dread of insurrections in the colonies are causes sufficient to drive oppressed people to the use of arms. We, therefore, the subscribers, inhabitants of South Carolina, holding ourselves bound by that most sacred of all obligations-the duty of good citizens toward an

injured country, and thoroughly convinced that, under our present distressed circumstances, we shall be justified before God and man, in resisting force by force...do unite ourselves under every tie of religion and honor, and associate as a band in her defence against every foe...hereby solemnly engaging that whenever our continental or provincial councils shall decree it necessary, we will go forth and be ready to sacrifice our lives and fortunes to secure her freedom and safety. This obligation to continue in full force until a reconciliation shall take place between Great Britain and America, upon constitutional principles—an event which we most ardently desire. And we will hold those persons inimical to the liberty of the colonies who shall refuse to subscribe this association.

The original of the Association is in the manuscripts collection at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, South Carolina in Series S 131 008. For an excellent article on the Association in South Carolina, see, Christopher Gould, "The South Carolina and Continental Associations: Prelude to Revolution," *South Carolina Historical Magazine*, 87 (1986), 30-48.

<sup>ix</sup> Col. William Thomson (1727-1796) was the commander of the regiment of Rangers authorized by the Council of Safety in June 1775. He later commanded the Third Regiment of South Carolina troops. He was captured when Charleston fell on May 12, 1780, and spent the remainder of the war on parole. Moss, *Patriots*, p. 930.

<sup>x</sup> This is probably the Rev. John Newton (1732-1791), a Baptist minister ordained by Hart at Congaree in 1768, who served the Congaree Baptist Church under the direction of the Sandy Creek Separate Association. He was "silenced" by the church when it came to light that he had allowed himself to be ordained by a Regular Baptist minister. He then moved to Georgia and never again participated fully in ministerial work. See, Leah Townsend, *South Carolina Baptists: 1670-1805* (Higginson Book Company, Salem, Massachusetts, 2005, facsimile reprint of 1938 edition), p. 144 and footnote.

<sup>xi</sup> Col. (later Brigadier General) Richard Richardson (1704-1780), a veteran of the 1760-1761 Cherokee War, was a militia officer opposing the Tories at Ninety Six in 1775. He later commanded the State Militia at Purysburg in December 1778. He was taken prisoner at Charleston in May 1780 and died in September 1780. Moss, *Patriots*, p. 812.

<sup>xii</sup> See, Robert Mills, *Mills Atlas: Atlas of the State of South Carolina: 1825* (Southern Historical Press, Inc., Greenville, South Carolina, 1980), maps of Orangeburg and Richland Counties. McCord's Ferry was located on the Congaree River north of where it joins the Wateree River to become the Santee River.

<sup>xiii</sup> Simon Hiron is listed as a "constituent" of Congaree Baptist Church which was located between Toms Creek and Hays Mill on Raifords Creek in present day Richland County. Townsend, *Baptists*, p. 143n. Toms Creek is shown on Mills' map of Richland County, but Hays Mill and Raifords Creek are not shown. Mills, *Atlas*, map of Richland County.

<sup>xiv</sup> Pettigrew Salisbury (c1702-1794) was a resident of Richland County and died there in late 1794 leaving a will naming, among others, his son Andrew Salisbury. Andrew Salisbury is listed as a constituent of Congaree Baptist Church. Townsend, *Baptists*, p. 143n. See, also, <http://sciway3.net/clark/richland/s.html>.

<sup>xv</sup> Reverend Joseph Reese (also spelled Rees) (1732-1795) was born on Duck Creek, Kent County, Pennsylvania (now Delaware); he came to South Carolina in 1745; he was ordained by Hart in 1768 and served the church at Lawsons Ford and Congaree Baptist Church. Townsend, *Baptists*, p. 145n.

<sup>xvi</sup> Probably Martha Goodwyn (also spelled Goodwin), a constituent of Congaree Baptist Church. Townsend, *Baptists*, p. 143n, 145n.

<sup>xvii</sup> John Chesnut (1743-1818) was paymaster and captain in the Third Regiment of Rangers commanded by Col. William Thomson. Moss, *Patriots*, p. 167.

<sup>xviii</sup> This is probably McLaurin's Store, a trading post, Edward McCrady, *The History of South Carolina in the Revolution: 1775-1780* (The McMillan Co., New York, 1901), p. 43

<sup>xix</sup> Mills shows a Wadlington's Mill on the Enoree River in Newberry County. Mills, *Atlas*, map of Newberry County.

<sup>xx</sup> Reverend Philip Mulkey (1732-1801) was converted from the Anglican Church in 1756 and ordained as a Baptist minister in 1757. He held pastorates in North Carolina until his removal to South Carolina around 1760. He moved to Fairforest in 1762 and preached from there. He is believed to have been a Tory throughout the Revolution. He performed services at one of the presbytery constituting Cheraw Hill Church in 1782; he was excommunicated in 1790 and churches were warned against him for adultery, perfidy and falsehood. Townsend, *Baptists*, p. 125n.

<sup>xxi</sup> Fletchall's so-called counter-association resolutions, which is believed to have been drafted by Joseph Robinson (see, note 20 below) read as follows:

Whereas, the important controversy at present subsisting between Great Britain and the American Colonies, has excited many of our countrymen to enter into certain resolutions which we do not think our duty to assent unto; wherefore upon mature deliberation it is our opinions and alternate resolutions touching aforesaid controversies, that our Sovereign Lord the King George the Third of Great Britain, &c., has not acted inconsistent with and subversive of the principles of the constitutions of the British empire, at least at present, that we have seen no authority sufficient or testimony authenticated to convince thereof to such a degree as to forfeit his right to our allegiance; Wherefore we are determined not to take up arms against him, but to bear true allegiance as formerly; and as our diversity of opinion touching the aforesaid controversy ariseth from our different degrees of capacity and the means of information, we resolve to live in peace and true friendship with the rest of our countrymen notwithstanding our aforesaid diversity of opinions, and are ready and willing at all times to assist in defending the Province, in order to oppose and suppress the incursions of Indians, insurrections of negroes, or any other enemy which may or shall invade this Province, or unlawfully disturb the good people thereof; and that without any reward whatsoever, when the exigencies of the case and condition our Province require it, or are called upon by a lawful officer of said Province. Moreover, that no laws be executed amongst us but the statutes of Great Britain, which are of force here, and the acts of the General Assembly of this Province. In testimony whereof we have subscribed our names to this memorial of our resolutions.

Journal of the Council of Safety for the Province of South Carolina: 1775, *Collections of the South-Carolina Historical Society*, Vol. II, pp. 72-3.

<sup>xxii</sup> There are a number of members of the Ray family listed as constituents of Padgett's Creek Baptist Church. Townsend, *Baptists*, p. 250n.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Major Joseph Robinson (1748-1807) was a Tory militia officer serving under Thomas Fletchall. Robinson authored the so-called "counter association" approved by most of the members of Fletchall's regiment. He was the commander of the Tory militia

unit that laid siege to the Fort at Ninety Six and forced the surrender of that garrison by the Whig militia under the command of then Maj. Andrew Williamson.

<sup>xxiv</sup> This is probably a reference to Sir John Dalrymple's (1726-1810) "The Address of the People of England to the Inhabitants of America." McCrady, *SC Revolution*, p. 43. Thomas Paine, in *Common Sense*, refers to Dalrymple's address as "...a whining jesuitical piece."

<sup>xxv</sup> Lord William Campbell (17??-1778) was the last of the Royal Governors of South Carolina. He took an active role in trying to foment support for the crown among backcountry loyalists and Native Americans and was forced by the Whigs to seek refuge on board a British man of war in Charleston harbor.

<sup>xxvi</sup> Nehemiah Howard was a member of Rev. Mulkey's congregation. He moved from North Carolina to South Carolina sometime after Mulkey made his move to South Carolina in 1759 or 1760. Townsend, *Baptists*, p. 126n.

<sup>xxvii</sup> This could be one of three Cunningham relatives known to hold loyalist views and living in this portion of the South Carolina backcountry. Brothers Patrick and Robert (1739-1813) Cunningham, two early Tory militia leaders, are the most likely candidates to be the person to whom Hart refers. Robert Cunningham eventually won promotion to the rank of Brigadier General in the Tory militia and took part in a number of backcountry engagements including the battles of Hammond's Store and Williams Fort. Their relative (his exact relationship is not clear), William Cunningham is thought to have initially sided with the Whigs but subsequently became an ardent Tory vilified by the backcountry Whigs as "Bloody Bill" Cunningham.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Thomas Brown (1750-1825) was another ardent Tory militia leader in the Carolina/Georgia/Florida backcountry. An excellent biography of him has been written by Prof. Edward J. Cashin, *The King's Ranger: Thomas Brown and The American Revolution on The Southern Frontier* (The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia, 1989).

<sup>xxix</sup> This is probably a reference to the battles at Concord and Lexington. It is interesting to see how exaggerated the account had become by the time it was being told in the Carolina backcountry.

<sup>xxx</sup> This is a fork on the Pacolet River in Spartanburg County. See, Mills, *Atlas*, Spartanburg County map.

<sup>xxxi</sup> No such officer is listed by Moss. However, in the pension application filed by George Salmon, he states that he served as a lieutenant in the Spartanburg militia under Capt. John Wood. See, <http://www.fortunecity.com/tinpan/nirvana/621/salmon.html>. William Henry Drayton relates that John, Moses and James Wood along with John Prince appeared before him on August 21, 1775, and swore that they believed Jonathan Clark "...to be an honest man, and worthy of credit..." Drayton, *Memoirs*, Vol. 1, p. 415

<sup>xxxii</sup> He is the likely author of a sworn statement given to Drayton regarding the activities of the Cherokee Indians. Drayton, *Memoirs*, Vol. 1, pp.413-15.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Col. William Wofford was the owner of Wofford's Irons Works, a significant iron works during the Revolution until its destruction by Bloody Bill Cunningham in 1781. It is believed to have been located where South Carolina Highway 30 crosses Lawson's Ford Creek in modern day Glendale, a suburb of Spartanburg, SC. [http://www.angelfire.com/folk/scsites/wofford's\\_iron\\_works.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/folk/scsites/wofford's_iron_works.htm). Wofford is not listed in Moss, *Patriots*. Mills, *Atlas*, Spartanburg County map, shows a Wofford's Mill on James Creek just south of the Tyger River and it is this location to which Hart is probably referring in this entry.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> This may be a reference to the house known as "Cross Keys" built by the Bobo family. Mills, *Atlas*, Union County map.

<sup>xxxv</sup> Col. Fletchall's regiment had its parade ground at John Ford's plantation on the Enoree River near where Cedar Creek enters the River. Drayton, *Memoirs*, Vol. 1, p. 369.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Moses Kirkland (1730-1787) was initially a Whig but quickly changed sides and began an ardent Tory. See Phil Norfleet's biographical sketch of Kirkland at [http://sc\\_tories.tripod.com/moses\\_kirkland.htm](http://sc_tories.tripod.com/moses_kirkland.htm).

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Thomas Norris (c.1743-1780) was pastor of the Bush River Baptist Church. He was a conscientious objector who preached and practiced non-resistance throughout the war. Townsend, *Baptists*, pp. 162-3, 163n.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> James Pollock was one of the elders of Duncan Creek Presbyterian Church.

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/9708/dcem.html>

<sup>xxxix</sup> The Little River Presbyterian Church (now the Little River Dominick Presbyterian Church) was founded by the Rev. Jesse Creswell in 1761. Col. James Williams (1740-1780), who died from wounds suffered at King's Mountain, is said to have been a charter member of this church.

<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/SCLAUREN/2002-09/1032406666>.

<sup>xl</sup> The wife of Major James Mayson, one of the officers in Col. William Thomson's Rangers.

<sup>xli</sup> Mills, *Atlas*, Lexington County map.

<sup>xlii</sup> William Henry Drayton wrote a letter dated August 30, 1775, addressed to the Council of Safety outlining his plan to suppress the backcountry Tories and including summaries of his orders to Andrew Williamson, William Thomson and Richard Richardson to post their men in various places in order to check Fletchall and Kirkland. It is probably this letter that is referenced by Hart. A. S. Salley, Jr., *The History of Orangeburg County South Carolina: From its First Settlement to the Close of the Revolutionary War* (Southern Historical Press, Greenville, South Carolina, 1994, reprint of the 1898 edition), pp. 296-7.

<sup>xliii</sup> Passed by Parliament in 1774, the Quebec Act, among other provisions, gave Quebec control of all the North American Indian territory including the land west of the 1763 Proclamation line. This act enraged the American colonies that viewed the land west of the Proclamation line as their territory for future expansion. The Quebec Act was repealed in 1775. ★



**Thomas Sumter Symposium tour guides Charles B. Baxley and David P. Reuwer discuss the South Carolina Historical Society image collection with the Societies' image curator, Mike Coker. Mike Coker's collection brings the American Revolution visually alive. Gen. Marion's flintlock pistol is in the display case. Photo by Jane Massey.**