



Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution

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Lieutenant Colonel Sir Banastre Tarleton

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In the **Commanders & Heroes of the American Revolution** collector series are artist Werner 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 available from the artist, printed on 12” by 9 7/8” art print stock for \$20.00 each plus \$8.00 s/h.

You may visit SCAR featured artist Willis at his studio in Charlotte.

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

State of South Carolina acquires Gen. Thomas Sumter’s Fish Dam Ford Battlefield

To mitigate any impacts on the Fish Dam Ford battlefield resulting from a bridge replacement project over the Broad River at the Fish Dam Ford, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) purchased approximately 150 acres in Chester County, SC on May 25, 2005. SCDOT commissioned Brockington and Associates to complete a preliminary archaeological reconnaissance of the site that yielded three probable rifle pits and numerous

Revolutionary War military artifacts. This location and study appears to confirm the battle map drawn by Col. Richard Winn and may settle the debate on which side of the Broad River hosted this battle. Unfortunately the proposed bridge construction may impact on one or two of the rifle pits that are very rare structures. SCAR has requested that SCDOT review the plans and try to save these pits. SCDOT archaeologist Wayne Roberts played an important role in the research and coordination of the acquisition of this important Revolutionary War site. The SCDOT plans to transfer title to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources’ Heritage Trust.

Editor's Notes

Southern Campaigns students will be treated to many 225th anniversary events in the next two years as the British renewed their strategy to reconquer their rebellious colonies in the Southern Department. 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 225th Southern Campaign anniversary event and contact information. The York, SC symposium on July 8, 2005 sounds especially interesting; see Calendar of Upcoming Events in this edition for more details. On June 11, SCAR editor Charles B. Baxley and David P. Reuwer will present a talk at the Ramsey's Mill 225th celebrations in Lincolnton, NC.

SCAR and friends are organizing the Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Roundtable, loosely modeled on the successful New York and Philadelphia Revolutionary War roundtables and the many Civil War roundtables that meet across the United States. Stay tuned for an announcement on how to join our group.

SCAR is also working with Historic Camden to plan a world-class symposium and battlefield tours on Gen. Nathanael Greene in April 2006 in conjunction with the 225th anniversary of the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill. This will likely include an opportunity to walk Hobkirk's Hill and Eutaw Springs Battlefields with knowledgeable battlefield guides. Your thoughts and input on both projects are invited.

SCAR has learned that the State of South Carolina is purchasing another important battlefield: a 150 acre tract including what is believed to be site of British Maj. James Wemyss' November 10, 1780 attack on Gen. Thomas Sumter's camp. Wemyss was seriously wounded and captured by Gen. Sumter's men at the Battle of Fish Dam Ford. Because of a planned bridge replacement, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) commissioned Brockington and Associates to conduct an archaeological assessment of the site. Unfortunately, the planned new bridge may destroy two extant rifle pits (see photos on p. 14); hopefully, the bridge engineers will

amend their plans to save these features. This area was greatly impacted by mining. The area on both sides of the Broad saw Native American activities, colonial and Revolutionary War era camps and modern uses on both sides of the Broad River. The battlefield site is in Chester County, SC overlooking the Broad River at the SC Highway 72/121/215 bridge. This is a major Revolutionary War battlefield preservation victory. SCAR will publish an edition detailing this action. Please send your information about camps on both sides of the Broad River at the Fish Dam.

In South Carolina, the SCDOT is working on replacing several bridges at important Revolutionary War cultural sites. Besides the bridge over the Broad River at Fish Dam Ford, SCDOT is designing replacements for the southbound US Highway 17 bridge over the North Santee River at Hopsewee Plantation (a National Historic Site and home of Continental Congressmen Thomas Lynch, Sr. and Jr., signer of the Declaration of Independence: www.hopsewee.com) and the SC Highway 14 (Landrum Road) bridge over the Pacolet River in upper Spartanburg County at the site of the Battle of Earle's Ford. We need any information you may have about the locations of Earle's Fort and Earle's Ford and the battles and camps there. SCAR is discussing these projects with the SCDOT environmental management office that is charged by law to protect vital cultural resources.

Battlefield preservation is usually initiated and led 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 sites' historic context by over-development. 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 artifact 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 CBB ★

Letter to the Editor

Mr. Baxley:

Some of you reading this may already be familiar with my book, *Calendar and Record of the Revolutionary War in the South: 1780-1781*, which can be found at:

The Battle of Camden Project Website:
<http://battleofcamden.org/sherman.htm>
or
<http://www.americanrevolution.org/warinthesouth.html>
or my Info or Home page at:
<http://www.angelfire.com/d20/htfh/>

of which work many of you, or people you know, contributed generously the first time around in the way of material, comments, suggestions, corrections, for which I again extend my sincerest thanks. At present I am busy putting together a second edition, and welcome and invite the same sort of assistance. Unfortunately for some time now I have been having regular problems receiving communications. What I wanted to make notice to all of also was this. If you write or call me I guarantee you a reply, and if you call you can certainly expect to be treated politely and respectfully. Now if for some reason you write and do not get a reply, or the reply seems a rude or strange one, or the same if you were to call me by phone, I request that you contact:

Sgt. Liz Eddy of the Seattle Police Department at 206-684-8183
Police Headquarters
610 Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 34986
Seattle, WA 98124-4986
or
Charles B. Baxley, SCAR Editor at
P.O. Box 10, Lugoff, SC 29078-0010
Home: 803-438-1606
work: 803-438-4200
cbbaxley@charter.net

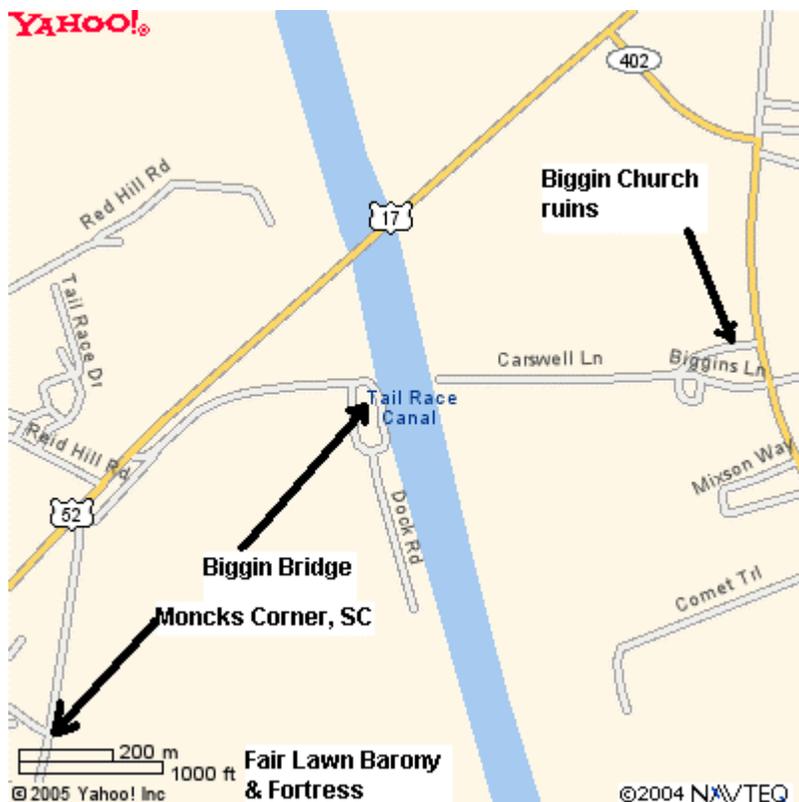
to let them know you tried to contact me, but could not reach me or were somehow rebuffed. This, I know, must sound rather strange or silly, but do believe it is offered for good reason, and indeed making notice of this may, in a direct or indirect way, be a help to law enforcement. I appreciate your assistance on this, as well as of course any on my book. My thanks for your attention.

William Thomas Sherman
1604 NW 70th St.
Seattle, WA 98117
206-784-1132
gunjones@netscape.com ★

The Battle of Biggin Bridge - April 14, 1780 - Tarleton's Cavalry Charge

by Charles B. Baxley

In March 1780, Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton and Major Patrick Ferguson, with their cavalry, joined Lt. Gen. Sir Henry Clinton and the main British force in its thirty-mile approach to Charles Town. By April 2nd, 1780 the third British attempt to capture Charles Town was officially underway. To guard the upper reaches of the Cooper River, on April 12, 1780, Patriot Southern Department Commandant Maj. Gen. Benjamin Lincoln sent Brigadier Gen. Isaac Huger and all of the Patriot cavalry to guard Biggin Bridge, near Monck's Corner, SC. This detachment consisted of the 1st and 3rd Continental Dragoons, the remains of Pulaski's Legion cavalry (decimated in their attack on the Spring Hill Redoubt at the Siege of Savannah in October 1779), Col. Daniel Horry's South Carolina Dragoons, and North Carolina militia. On April 12th, General Clinton ordered Lt. Col. Tarleton into the South Carolina countryside to defend his rear and cut Charles Town off from its lines of communication, reinforcement, counterattack and supply with the North and South Carolina backcountry. The Continentals had successfully reinforced Charles Town on April 8th and Col. Abraham Buford was approaching with more Continental reinforcements from Virginia. Tarleton's first objective was to take possession of Monck's Corner and the nearby bridge over Biggin Creek, where Gen. Huger was stationed.



Map showing bridgeheads of the Biggin Creek Bridge, south of US 17A/US 52 bridge near Monck's Corner, SC. Biggin Creek was greatly enlarged for navigation and discharge of impounded waters generating hydroelectric power and is now called the Tail Race Canal. It runs from the Pinopolis Dam and Navigation Lock and connects to the Cooper River and Charleston Harbor. This is the site of the successful April 14, 1780 attack by British invaders commanded by Lt. Col. Tarleton and Maj. Patrick Ferguson on Gen. Isaac Huger's Patriots. Also shown about .25 mile east of the canal on SC 402 at Biggin Lane is the site of the majestic ruins of Biggin Church. This substantial brick church and grounds were fortified, but was abandoned and burned by British Col. John Coates after an attack by Gen. Thomas Sumter in his "Dog Days of Summer" Campaign, July 1781. As the approaches on both sides of the canal are on causeways, the troops would have been mainly posted on the high grounds about .25 mile from both sides of the bridge. Prior to the enlargement of the canal, Biggin Creek was unnavigable at this point. Fairlawn Barony, its earthen fort and Stony Landing, the upper limit of navigation of this branch of the Cooper River, are about .5 mile south (downstream) of this bridgehead. Map from Yahoo.com and annotated by Charles B. Baxley.

Maj. Patrick Ferguson and his Loyalist provincial troops, the American Volunteers, supported Lt. Col. Tarleton and his British Legion. On the April 13th, they were joined by Lt. Col. James Webster and the 33rd and 64th Regiments of infantry. See map on page 36. The plan was for Tarleton and Ferguson to proceed ahead quickly and silently to Monck's Corner and take Gen. Huger by surprise at night. Along the way, they captured a messenger who was carrying a letter from Gen. Huger to Gen. Lincoln in Charleston, which told Tarleton how the Patriot troops were deployed.

From ten o'clock on the night of April 13, 1780, a swift silent march was undertaken along the road to Monck's Corner by Lt. Col. Tarleton and his men. They encountered no American scouts or patrols. When they reached Monck's Corner, they caught the Americans completely by surprise. Not only had there been no patrols, but Gen. Huger had placed his cavalry in front of his infantry.

Lt. Col. Tarleton, typical of his tactics, led a cavalry charge directly into the Americans; swamps on either side of the causeway leading to the bridgehead precluded a flank attack. The British easily dispersed the militia defending Biggin Bridge. Most of the Americans were able to escape, including Gen. Huger and Lt.

Col. William Washington; however, Tarleton was able to capture wagons of supplies and a great many excellent cavalry horses of great value to the British as they had lost most of their horses on the voyage to the south.

The Patriots' defeat at Monck's Corner left Gen. Lincoln without any lines of communication from Charles Town to the interior of South Carolina or with allies by sea. The defeat only hastened the surrender of Charles Town.

On the front page, SCAR artist Werner Willis' painting graphically depicts "Bloody Ban" Tarleton leading his trademark cavalry charge, the chosen tactic which will be successfully utilized by Tarleton again on May 6, 1780 at Lenud's Ferry over the Santee River and on May 30, 1780 at the Battle of the Waxhaws (Buford's Defeat, Buford's Massacre).

From William D. James' *Life of Marion*

On the 13th April [1780], the American infantry and cavalry under Gen. [Isaac] Huger, lay, the infantry at Biggin Church, and the cavalry under Col. [William] Washington, at Monck's Corner. [Lt.] Col. [Banastre] Tarleton with [Maj. Patrick] Ferguson's corps of marksmen, advanced on from the Quarter-

House to Goose Creek, where he was joined by [Lt.] Col. [James] Webster, with the 33d and 64th regiments of infantry. There an attack upon the American post was concerted, and it was judged advisable to make it in the night, as that would render the superiority of Washington's cavalry useless. A servant of one of Huger's officers was taken on the road, and he agreed for a few dollars, to conduct the enemy through a by-road, to Monck's Corner. At three o'clock in the morning, they charged Washington's guard on the main road, and pursued them into the camp. The Americans were completely surprised. Major [Chevalier Pierre-Francois] Vernier, of Pulaski's Legion, and twenty-five men, were killed. One hundred officers and dragoons, fifty waggons loaded with ammunition, clothing and arms, and four hundred horses, with their accoutrements, were taken. A most valuable acquisition to the British. Major [Charles] Cochrane with the British Legion of infantry, forced the passage at Biggen [Creek] bridge, and drove Gen. Huger and the infantry before him. In this affair, Major James Conyers, of the Americans, distinguished himself by a skilful retreat, and by calling off the attention of the enemy from his sleeping friends, to himself. The British had only one officer and two men wounded. The account of the loss of the Americans in this affair, is taken from Tarleton, who blames "the injudicious conduct of the American commander, who besides making a false disposition of his corps, by placing his cavalry in front of the bridge, during the night, and his infantry in the rear, neglected sending patrols in front of his videttes." In this surprise, the British made free use of the bayonet, the houses in Monck's Corner, then a village, were afterwards deserted, and long bore the marks of deadly thrust, and much bloodshed.

Excerpt from *A Sketch of the Life of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion, and A History of his Brigade, From its Rise in June, 1780, until Disbanded in December, 1782; With Descriptions of Characters and Scenes, not heretofore published*, by William Doblin James.

Excerpt from Lt. Col. Banastre Tarleton's Book

Before this time (of the complete investure of Charleston in April 1780), the Americans had joined a body of militia to three regiments of Continental cavalry, and the command of the whole was entrusted to Brigadier General [Isaac] Huger. This corps held possession of the forks and passes on Cooper River, and maintained a communication with Charles Town; by which, supplies of men, arms, ammunition, and provision, might be conveyed to the garrison during the siege, and by which, the Continental troops might escape after the defenses were destroyed. Sir Henry Clinton was thoroughly sensible of the inconveniencies that might arise from this situation of the enemy's light troops; and being lately relieved by a detachment of sailors and marines, from the charge of Fort Johnson, he directed his attention to dislodge them from their position. As soon as he received intelligence of the arrival of a number of waggons, loaded with arms, ammunition, and clothing, from the northward, he selected a detachment of one thousand four hundred men, whom he committed to Lt. Col. [James] Webster, with orders to counteract the designs of the Americans, and to break in upon the remaining communications of Charles Town.

Battle of Biggin Bridge [April 13, 1780]

On the 12th of April, [1780] Lt. Col. [Banastre] Tarleton, being reinforced at the Quarter House by Major [Patrick] Ferguson's corps of marksmen, advanced to Goose Creek: Col. [James] Webster arrived on the following day at the same place, with the 33d and 64th regiments of infantry; Tarleton again moved on in the evening, with his own and Ferguson's corps, towards Monck's Corner, as had been previously concerted with the commander in chief, in order, if possible, to surprise the Americans encamped at that place: an attack in the night was judged most advisable, as it

would render the superiority of the enemy's cavalry useless, and would, perhaps, present a favourable opportunity of getting possession of Biggin Bridge, on Cooper River, without much loss to the assailants. Profound silence was observed on the march. At some distance from Goose Creek, a Negro was secured by the advanced guard, who discovered him attempting to leave the road. A letter was taken from his pocket, written by an officer in Gen. Huger's camp the afternoon of that day, and which he was charged to convey to the neighborhood of Charles Town: The contents of the letter, which was opened at a house not far distant, and the Negro's intelligence, purchased for a few dollars, proved lucky incidents at this period. Lt. Col. Tarleton's information relative to the situation of the enemy was now complete. It was evident, that the American cavalry had posted themselves in front of Cooper River, and that the militia were placed in a meetinghouse, which commanded the bridge, and were distributed on the opposite bank. At three o'clock in the morning, the advanced guard of dragoons and mounted infantry, supported by the remainder of the [British] Legion and Ferguson's corps, approached the American post: a watch word was immediately communicated to the officers and soldiers, which was closely followed by an order to charge the enemy's grand guard on the main road, there being no other avenue open, owing to the swamps on the flanks, and to pursue them into their camp. The order was executed with the greatest promptitude and success. The Americans were completely surprised: Major Vernier, of Pulaski's Legion, and some other officers and men who attempted to defend themselves, were killed or wounded; Gen. [Isaac] Huger, Cols. [William] Washington and Maj. [John] Jamieson, with many officers and men, fled on foot to the swamps, close to their encampment, where, being concealed by the darkness, they effected their escape: four hundred horses belonging to officers and dragoons, with their arms and appointments, (a valuable acquisition for the British cavalry in their present state) fell into the hands of the victors; about one hundred officers, dragoons, and hussars, together with fifty waggons, loaded with arms, clothing and ammunition, shared the same fate. Without loss of time, Maj. [Charles] Cochrane was ordered to force the bridge and the meeting house with the infantry of the British Legion. He charged the militia with fixed bayonets, got possession of the pass, and dispersed every thing that opposed him. In the attack on Monck's Corner, and at Biggin Bridge, the British had one officer and two men wounded, with five horses killed and wounded. This signal instance of military advantage, may be partly attributed to the judgment and address with which this expedition was planned and executed, and partly to the injudicious conduct of the American commander; who, besides making a false disposition of his corps, by placing his cavalry in front of the bridge during the night, and his infantry in the rear, neglected sending patrols in front of his videttes; which omission, equally enabled the British to make a surprise, and prevented the Americans recovering from the confusion attending an unexpected attack.

Excerpt from *A History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781, in the Southern Provinces of North America*, by Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton with slight editing by Charles B. Baxley.

From the Dairy of Lt. Anthony Allaire of Ferguson's Corps

Wednesday, 12th. [April, 1780] Received orders to march. The North Carolinians were ordered to join Col. Ferguson. We left Lining's plantation about seven o'clock in the evening, and marched to Bacon's Bridge [over the upper Ashley River, near Dorchester, SC], twenty-two miles, where we arrived at five o'clock on Thursday morning; very much fatigued. We halted to refresh till seven. Cool weather.

Thursday, 13th. Got in motion at seven o'clock in the morning.

Marched through a small village called Dorchester. It contains about forty houses and a church. Continued our march to Middleton's plantation at Goose Creek, about fifteen miles from Bacon's Bridge, and ten from Dorchester. Here we met the Legion about one o'clock in the afternoon, and halted till ten at night. Then, in company with them, got in motion and marched eighteen miles to Monck's Corner, being informed that Col. Washington's, Pulaski's, Bland's, and Harry's Light Horse lay here. We arrived just as day began to appear on Friday morning, and found the above enemy here, in number about four hundred, including some militia that arrived the day before, commanded by Gen. Huger. Luckily for them, they were under marching orders, which made them more alert, when the alarm was given, than usual, which alone prevented their being all taken completely by surprise. They made off with great expedition. We pursued, overtook and killed Pulaski's [Legion] Major Vernier, wounded a French Lieut. Beaulait,* and one other officer; about sixty privates were taken, fifteen or twenty of whom were wounded. We had but one man wounded, and he very slightly. We took thirty wagons, with four horses in each. A number of very fine horses that belonged to their troops were likewise taken, and converted to British Light horses. Col. Washington and all their officers made but a narrow escape; their baggage, letters, and some of their commissions were taken.

* Lieut. Beaulait has been very unfortunate since in America. He received seven wounds by a broadsword, in a charge of Campbell's Light Horse, when Charlestown was besieged by Gen. [Augustine] Provost, and two at Monck's Corner, which amounts to nine, four or five of them in the face. -A. A.

Friday, 14th. Remained at Monck's Corner, collecting the stores, etc. About seven o'clock at night, accidentally a store house caught fire, in which were two casks of powder; was very much alarmed by the explosion, and all got under arms. This confusion was scarcely over when three ladies came to our camp in great distress: Lady Colleton, Miss. Betsy Giles, and Miss. Jean Russell. They had been most shockingly abused by a plundering villain. Lady Colleton badly cut in the hand by a broadsword, and bruised very much. After my friend, Dr. [Uzal] Johnson, dressed her hand, he, with an officer and twelve men, went to the plantation, about one mile from camp, to protect Mrs. Fayssoux, whom this infamous villain had likewise abused in the same manner. There he found a most accomplished, amiable lady in the greatest distress imaginable. After he took a little blood from her she was more composed, and next morning come to camp to testify against the cursed villain that abused them in this horrid manner. He was secured and sent to Headquarters for trial.

[Bracketed annotations by Charles B. Baxley.]

<http://www.tngenweb.org/revwar/kingsmountain/allaire.html>

Excerpt from Robert D. Bass, *Green Dragoon*:

The march and the passage across the Ashley were made without opposition, although Washington with a consideration force lay at Middleton plantation, near Goose Creek. Tarleton, with the 17th Light Dragoons and the British Legion, went into camp at the Quarter House, six miles above Charleston. On April 5 he led out 500 infantrymen and 50 horsemen in an attempt to surprise Washington, who still lay at Middleton's, but the surprise failed. Washington retreated to the 23 Mile House.

On April 12 Major Patrick Ferguson and his corps of marksmen arrived at Tarleton's camp at the Quarter House. Together they advanced ten miles up the neck to Goose Creek. Next day Lieutenant Colonel James Webster joined them with the 33rd and 64th Regiments of infantry. In the evening Tarleton and Ferguson moved on toward Moncks Comer, having intelligence that Colonel Washington had retreated from the 23 Mile House in order to join Brigadier General Isaac Huger, commanding Colonel Daniel

Horry's cavalry, Count Pulaski's hussars, and other horsemen recently arrived from Virginia.

The advance guard of the Legion captured a Negro messenger bearing a letter from Huger's camp to Charleston. From the letter and the bearer Tarleton learned the disposition of the American troops at Moncks Comer. The cavalry had been posted in front of Cooper River and the militia stationed in Biggin Church, commanding Biggin Bridge. The rest of the forces had been distributed on the opposite bank of the river.

Tarleton moved his troops in silence, and at three o'clock in the morning of April 14 he struck. The Americans were completely surprised. Major Paul Vernier, commanding Pulaski's Legion, and some other officers and men who attempted to defend themselves were killed or wounded. General Huger, Colonels Washington and Jamieson, with many officers and men, fled on foot to the swamps. Major [Charles] Cochrane, commanding the infantry of the British Legion, routed the Americans from Biggin Church and seized the bridge over Cooper River. Horribly mangled by the sabers of the dragoons, Major Vernier was taken into a nearby house and thrown on a bare wooden table, where he lay bleeding and cursing. With his last breath he damned the Americans for their cowardice and God-damned the British for their barbarity in sabering him after he had surrendered and begged for quarter.

During the excitement after the battle three of Tarleton's dragoons broke into Fair Lawn, the plantation home of the distinguished Loyalist Sir John Colleton. Here women from surrounding plantations had taken refuge, and the soldiers singled out three of the fairest for rape. In the scuffle the wife of a Charleston physician received several slashes from sword. The women finally escaped and fled to the British for protection. Colonel Webster ordered the immediate arrest of their assailants. Major Ferguson, one of the most chivalrous men in the British army, demanded that they be instantly put to death. Finally the dragoons were sent to Charleston, court-martialed, and flogged without mercy. In the affairs at Moncks Corner and Biggin Bridge, the British had an officer and 2 men wounded, but the Americans had 15 killed and 17 wounded. About 100 officers, dragoons, and hussars fell prisoner to the British Legion. More important to the British, because of the poor quality of their mounts, was the capture of 83 horses that had belonged to the American officers and their dragoons.



Patriot Commandant at Biggin Bridge Gen. Isaac Huger.

Biggin Bridge is now long gone but the approach causeways to it are still intact and used to this day. Biggin Creek once ran under the western side of the Tailrace Canal near the Moncks Corner bank. Take the time and the short drive to stand on both banks of the water and let your mind's eye vision the clatter of light horse across the plank and girder bridge, the clash of steel swords, and thunder of the guns as Tarleton's British Legion charged the bridge. Hear this battled bridge speak to our independence. ★

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN
PATRIOTS IN THE
SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN OF
THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION**

One of the most neglected areas of study in American history is the involvement of African-Americans in the Revolutionary War. Bobby G. Moss' and Michael C. Scoggins' new book is a fascinating glimpse of the complexity of the 18th century southern society. Free people of color, slaves as officers' servants and enslaved Continental soldiers and militiamen fought as Patriots along with their European masters and neighbors. During the Revolution, both free and enslaved African-Americans were faced with the difficult decision about which side to support—would they fight for American independence, or aid the British in putting down the rebellion? Honestly, when SCAR heard of this research project, I expected they would find little reliable information, but upon my review of the book SCAR found that this book is a wonderful compilation of true American stories, all beyond the stereotypes of Patriot soldiers so easily held. As hard as it may seem to believe, reading each short summary of a black Patriot's story is truly educational, inspirational and uplifting. The York County Culture & Heritage Commission and Scotia-Hibernia Press new book extensively documents the extensive African-American involvement in the Revolutionary War. *African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution*, tells the documented stories of approximately 1000 African-Americans who supported the struggle for American independence by serving in the Continental Army and Navy, state troops, militia, and other patriotic services. This book will be followed in late 2005 by African-American Loyalists in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution, which will focus on the African-Americans who supported the British Crown. This project is the result of many years of research by noted Revolutionary War scholar Dr. Bobby G. Moss and historian Michael C. Scoggins of the Culture & Heritage Museums of York County. Using primary and secondary sources from libraries and archives throughout the United States, Canada and Great Britain, Dr. Moss and Mr. Scoggins have interestingly documented the experiences of African-Americans whose lives were caught up in the struggle for American independence. Individual patriot soldiers are listed alphabetically with biographical information and references for each person, in the same style as previous books by Dr. Moss such as *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, *The Patriots at the*

Cowpens and *The Patriots at Kings Mountain*. SCAR recommends both of these books as a tremendous resource for genealogists and historians who wish to learn more about the thousands of African-Americans who were involved in the Revolutionary War as it unfolded in the Southern states of Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

Copies of *African-American Patriots in the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution* may be purchased at the Historic Brattonsville Gift Shop, 1444 Brattonsville Road, McConnells, SC 29726; Museum Store, Museum of York County, 4621 Mt. Gallant Road, Rock Hill, SC 29732; and the Historical Center of York County, 212 East Jefferson St., York, SC 29745. Retail price per copy: \$32.50 plus \$1.95 sales tax (\$34.45 total). If ordering by mail please add \$3.00 per copy for shipping and handling (\$37.45 total). If ordering multiple copies, please call for a price quote on shipping. Academic/nonprofit discount: a 10% discount is available for academic institutions, public libraries, and nonprofit culture and heritage institutions (museums, historical societies, genealogical societies, etc.). Academic/nonprofit price per copy is \$29.25 plus \$1.75 tax (\$31.00 total). If ordering by mail, please add \$3.00 per copy for shipping and handling (\$35.00 total). If ordering multiple copies, please call for a price quote on shipping. Please make checks and money orders payable to CHC. Copies may also be purchased via credit card by calling the Historic Brattonsville Gift Shop at 803-684-2327 or the Museum Store at 803-981-9181. To purchase wholesale copies for resale by your institution, please contact Michael Scoggins, Historical Center of York County, 212 East Jefferson St., York, SC 29745, 803.684.3948, Ext. 31;

micscoggins@chmuseums.org ★

The **American Revolution Round Table of Philadelphia** maintains an excellent "Searchable On-line American Revolution Databases and Lists" which allows direct access to many important collections, ranging from the George Washington and John Jay Papers to South Carolina records and diaries to the *Book of Negroes*, a list of Black Loyalists who went to Nova Scotia in 1783. It is an incredible, continuously updated source! It can be accessed at: http://www.geocities.com/arrtop/revw_ardata.htm

**John "Jack" Gardner
Dover, Delaware**

<http://www.geocities.com/arrtop>

**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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Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution's letter and email publication policy: the author must sign all letters and emails and include a telephone number and return address for verification. We reserve the right to select those letters and emails that contribute to the cause, and to edit them for clarity and length. Letters and emails published may not reflect the opinion of your editor.

David P. Reuwer helps *Southern Campaigns of the American Revolution* with ideas, research, editorial decisions, great enthusiasm, and much needed grammar, all of which are greatly appreciated.

**Please contact us at P. O. Box 10,
Lugoff, South Carolina 29078-0010 or
cbbaxley@charter.net or (803) 438-
1606 (h) or (803) 438-4200 (w).
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The South Carolina Backcountry Whig Militia: 1775-1781 An Overview

By William T. Graves

The backcountry Whig militia of South Carolina played a substantial role in winning the American Revolutionary War. Without its contributions to victories at the first Battle of Ninety Six in late 1775, King's Mountain in October 1780, Cowpens in January 1781 and numerous other engagements, the conclusion of the war almost certainly would have been delayed and the outcome may have been different. Many people, however, fundamentally misunderstand the nature and function of this militia. They ascribe to it a cohesiveness, discipline and organization that simply did not exist; at least not during the periods in which the militia enjoyed its greatest successes. Backcountry Whig militia units were comprised of citizen soldiers who, with few exceptions, were citizens first and soldiers second. The priority of domestic duties and responsibilities undermined the military efficacy of the militia except in times when self-preservation and self-interest dictated devotion to the cause. During times of necessity, however, these units performed well.¹

In this article, I have tried to give a brief overview of the South Carolina backcountry Whig militia. Some of the major factors that shaped and reshaped that militia as the war progressed are examined. I have suggested a framework which the reader may find helpful in considering how the militia evolved and how it was most effectively used in response to the war's twists and turns.

The backcountry Whig militia passed through at least three stages during the war. The initial stage was one of uncertainty as the Whigs fashioned a new government and tested that government's ability to create and control the military force needed to support its right to govern. Since there was no land-based British troops in South Carolina at the outset of the war, the most threatening challenge to the Whigs was the presence of significant Tory backcountry militia units. The Whigs effectively met this threat with the help of the backcountry militia. The second stage occurred during the relative stability that prevailed after the Whigs' defeated the backcountry Tory militia in late 1775 and continued until the siege of Charleston in early 1780. It was during this time that the militia enjoyed its highest degree of organization but arguably its lowest degree of military efficacy. The final stage was one of total instability caused by the British occupation of the entire state following

Charleston's fall on May 12, 1780, the collapse of the Whig government and the outbreak of full-scale civil war between backcountry Tory and Whig sympathizers. Ironically, it was during this period that the Whig militia had its most significant impact.

Period of Uncertainty: The Whigs Form a New Government

In early 1775 the colony of South Carolina's nascent, essentially self-appointed and arguably extra-legal Whig government was faced with many challenges. Not the least of these was establishing its right to organize and control the military force required by every government to support the legitimacy of its claim to govern. The first and second Provincial Congresses and the Councils of Safety they appointed to exercise legislative and executive powers between sessions of the Congresses grappled with their authority to call out the militia, the only military force then existing in the colony.² The records of the proceedings of those Congresses and Councils reveal there was no agreement among the conservatives and radicals as to their goal. Were they establishing a temporary, caretaker government that would temporarily exercise power until reconciliation with Great Britain could be achieved or were they creating the governmental framework of an independent country? The militia itself reflected the ambiguity felt by the Congresses and Councils. There were units, especially in the predominately Tory areas of the backcountry between the Broad and Saluda Rivers, in which the militia was squarely under the control of men such as Thomas Fletchall,³ Moses Kirkland,⁴ Robert Cunningham⁵ and his brother Patrick⁶ who refused to subscribe to the Whig Association.⁷ These men were adamantly opposed to what they saw as the usurpation of governmental powers from the only legitimate seats of government, the royal governor, his council and the General Assembly elected under the royal charter.

Perhaps grasping the likelihood of eventual independence from England, the more radical members of the Council such as William Henry Drayton⁸ recognized immediately the importance of controlling the military. They knew that without such control the governmental structures established by them would soon collapse. They aggressively set about remedying this deficiency. They authorized the formation of three regiments of provincial troops, two of foot and one of rangers, and appointed as commanders officers at least sympathetic to, if not strong proponents of, the views of the radicals.⁹ In addition, the Councils actively encouraged the formation of "volunteer companies" of militia. Interestingly, the Whigs did not initially assert the right to call out and regulate the existing militia units under the Militia Act. By calling for the

formation of these "volunteer companies," the Whigs were not relying on the mandatory provisions of the existing militia law passed by the General Assembly elected under the royal charter.¹⁰ After all, this law compelled almost universal participation by free, white males between the ages of 16 and 60.¹¹ That would include men such as Fletchall, Kirkland and Cunningham and the companies of Tory sympathizers commanded by them.

The Provincial Congress took a first, cautious step toward asserting its authority to regulate the militia in January 1775. It passed resolutions under which it "recommended...to all inhabitants of this colony, that they be diligently attentive in learning the use of arms; and that their officers be requested to train and exercise them at least once a month."¹² In June 1775, Congress took a much bolder stance. It enacted a resolution delegating to the Council of Safety the "full power and authority to carry the acts of Assembly for regulating the Militia of this Colony, in all respects, into execution, as in time of alarm." Knowing that men such as Fletchall and Cunningham continued in command of their militia units, however, Congress anticipated that drastic measures may have to be used to deal with them. The Provincial Congress therefore gave the Council of Safety the following authority:

That if any just complaint shall be made against any officer in the Militia, or that there are any vacancies in any of the regiments or companies of Militia in this colony, and that commissions cannot be procured in the usual channel, the Council of Safety may remove such officer, and forthwith appoint another in his stead, and also appoint officers for filling up such vacancies, as the case may respectively require.¹³

This authority vested in the Council the seemingly unfettered power to determine if a complaint was "just." Having made such a determination against any allegedly offending officer, the Council had the power to remove and replace such officer. One can almost see the names "Fletchall," "Kirkland" and "Cunningham" being set forth in the resolution as examples of officers against whom a just complaint might be readily lodged.

Interestingly, when the first Constitution of South Carolina was adopted in March 1776, no express provision authorizing the establishment of a militia was included. Doubtless the Whigs' position was that the inclusion of Article XXIX ratifying "all laws now of force here" had the effect of extending the last Militia Act enacted in 1747 even though that act was passed by an Assembly sanctioned by the Crown. The only nuance would be that the new provincial officers would exercise the

powers that act vested in the royal governor. Even the second Constitution of South Carolina adopted on March 19, 1778, failed to expressly empower the General Assembly to establish and regulate the militia although such powers clearly were claimed by the General Assembly since on March 28, 1778, a very detailed new Militia Act was enacted.¹⁴ By 1778, the General Assembly would have been totally secure in its authority to regulate a militia. By then the Whigs had unchallenged control of the legislature and executive of the State. Although Tory sympathizers still dominated pockets of the backcountry,¹⁵ during the period from late 1775 until the British invasion of South Carolina in early 1780, they could not embody themselves as official militia units. Paradoxically, since the Whigs held unchallenged political power during that period, many Tories served in the militia units as ersatz Whigs in campaigns that no doubt many found distasteful. Self-preservation while living among their Whig neighbors demanded that the Tories make practical compromises in their political principles.

The function of the militia during this period of uncertainty varied substantially from its function in later periods of the Revolution. At the start of the Revolution with two governments simultaneously claiming the right to govern the Province, neither claimant effectively controlled the militia because, as already noted, many of its units were composed of both Whig and Tory sympathizers. The Whigs immediately recognized this weakness in their claim to govern, and they quickly and adroitly moved to put into place an effective military force. As almost their first act of government, the Whigs established three regiments of state troops and called for the formation of volunteer militia units. The Council of Safety's control over commissioning of the officers assured that only units commanded by approved officers would be recognized. Numerous such Whig-dominated militia units were formed. Those volunteer units would be governed by the terms of the Militia Act once recognized as legitimate by the Council's commissioning of their officers.

The Tories on the other hand were quickly deprived of their claim to govern. The last royal governor's abandonment of the colony for the safety of a British man-of-war stationed off Charleston and the Whigs' exercise of their controlling votes in the royal General Assembly to adjourn that body and to reconvene as the First Provincial Congress simultaneously stripped the Tories of both their executive and legislative support. Tory militia commanders such as Fletchall, Kirkland and the Cunninghams were cut off from any meaningful contact with or support from the Crown.

Deprived of both executive and legislative support, the decision by the backcountry Tory militia to take to the field in support of the royal governor was doomed to failure. The defeat of the Tory-controlled militia units was inevitable and it occurred in late 1775 at the first Battle of Ninety Six.¹⁶ Following this defeat, the backcountry Tory militia commanders including Fletchall and Patrick Cunningham were arrested and sent to Charleston.¹⁷ After the successful defense of Charleston in the summer of 1776, the Whig government felt sufficiently safe in its control of the populace to release Fletchall, the Cunningham brothers and other Tories from imprisonment upon their giving their promise not to take up arms against the Whig government.

The backcountry Whig militia played a determinative role in the first Battle of Ninety Six. Approximately 3,000 backcountry Whig militiamen joined the units commanded by Maj. Andrew Williamson¹⁸ and Col. Richard Richardson.¹⁹ Their sheer numbers overwhelmed the Tories led by Patrick Cunningham. These Whigs militiamen lived in the areas in which the Tory militia was strongest. Their lives and the well-being of their family members depended on the successful suppression of the Tories before full-scale civil war could break out among neighbors over which course South Carolina would follow in the brewing storm. Conditions in late 1775 were perfect for the Whig militia to realize its maximum efficacy by embodying for a short duration in their own neighborhood to protect their own lives and property. These were the conditions in which the backcountry militia best functioned.²⁰

Period of Relative Stability: But Little Success

The defeat of the Tory-controlled militia and the successful defense of Charleston set the stage for the second phase in the evolution of the militia. During the period of relative stability between the early summer of 1776 and the British invasion of South Carolina in the spring of 1780, the militia units appear to have functioned substantially in accordance with the provisions of the Militia Act. Men were formed into companies, regiments and brigades commanded by officers either elected by them or, in the case of field grade officers, appointed by the Governor as provided in the Act. Men reported to musters for training and served in the campaigns and battles that occurred during this period including the campaign against the Cherokees in the late summer and early fall of 1776, the ill-fated Florida campaign in May-June 1778, the Augusta campaign in December 1778-January 1779, the Battle of Brier Creek in March 1779, the Battle of

Stono (June 1779) and the unsuccessful siege of Savannah in September and October of 1779. A number of backcountry militia units responded to the call to rally to the defense of Charleston when the British under General Henry Clinton again laid siege to that city in early 1780. Interestingly, even the units that did not come to the defense of Charleston continued to discharge, at least in part, their duties in the backcountry. They manned the forts and outposts protecting the frontier and effectively suppressed the backcountry Tories from embodying to support the British forces at Charleston.²²

Even during this period of relative stability, however, the modern reader must put aside all preconceived notions of traditional military units and the discipline associated with them. These units bore no resemblance to today's National Guard with its thorough military training and government-issued, state of the art weaponry. The Militia Act of 1747 and its replacement in 1778 placed on each man the responsibility of providing his own weapons and ammunition. In that day of hardscrabble yeoman farms, the "citizen soldiers" who made up the ranks of the militia were clearly citizens first and soldiers only as and when emergencies dictated that they assemble for the preservation of themselves and their families. Although some of the wealthier backcountry planters owned slaves upon whom they could rely to do the work required to raise crops and perform the multitude of tasks necessary to sustain life in the backcountry, the vast majority of the rank-and-file members of the militia units were yeoman farmers whose families' continued existence was totally dependent upon the fruits of their own labor.²² Such men could not afford to be away from their farms for long periods of time engaging in meaningless military training. Likewise, they were not well suited to participate in long campaigns far from their homes. The evidence is overwhelming that the most effective use of the militia was made in limited engagements close to the homes of the men doing the fighting against an enemy that posed an immediate threat to the families of those men.²³

The disastrous campaigns mounted against Florida and Savannah during this period of relative stability amply illustrate the ineffectiveness of using militia far from home on missions of extended duration. On each of these campaigns, men abandoned their units in such numbers as to condemn the campaigns to failure. Their priorities were to provide for and protect their families, not to engage in remote conflicts to achieve what to them would have seemed like less than immediately important goals and objectives.

It would be a mistake, however, to assume that these traits were unique to the South Carolina backcountry militia. An

examination of the militia's actions at the Battle of Camden in August 1780 demonstrates that self-interest and self-preservation were interests of universal importance to yeoman militiamen. Although fought during a time frame outside this period of relative stability, the actions of the North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland militia units at Camden fully support the notion that militia were ill-suited to engage in combat far from home requiring extended absence from their farms and families. There were no South Carolina militia units at Camden. Arguably, had there been South Carolina militia present, the rout of Gates' army may not have occurred because such men would have had a vested interest in the defense of their homes and families. The militia from North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland had no such self-interest. When faced with an attack by the British regular army, they bolted and ran: the ultimate concession to self-preservation and self-interest.

Period of Instability: But More Success

The fall of Charleston, the surrender of the entire southern department of the Continental Army, the capture of a large part of the state's coastal as well as some backcountry militia units and the resulting collapse of the Whig government in May 1780 mark the beginning of the third period of evolution of the South Carolina militia. Whatever formal structure the backcountry Whig militia may have had before the fall of Charleston was completely dissipated thereafter. There was no Whig government in South Carolina. The state's capitol had fallen, the members of the General Assembly either had been captured and imprisoned or had fled to safety outside the state. Even the governor had been forced to flee the state. Although the General Assembly had endowed Governor John Rutledge²⁴ with virtual dictatorial powers just before the fall of Charleston, Rutledge had no ability to govern a state in which he could not even reside and from which neither he nor any officers who served under him might reasonably expect any monetary or logistical support. In a very real sense, from and after the fall of Charleston, it was the lot of the men who remained committed to the Whig cause to improvise for themselves the rules that would govern any military units they might choose to establish.

One pervasive element of the units pulled together by the Whigs following the fall of Charleston is that they were composed of men who were refugees. With the rapid establishment by the British of military enclaves throughout the backcountry at Camden, Ninety Six, Rocky Mount, Hanging Rock, Granby and Augusta and the rallying to the British by the long-suppressed backcountry Tories, Whigs were forced to make a decision. Either they had to

take parole from the British or they had to abandon their farms and plantations to gather in safer environs where they could form units to oppose the British and Tories. Many Whigs such as Andrew Williamson, LeRoy Hammond,²⁵ Andrew Pickens²⁶ and others chose to take parole because they viewed the war as being essentially won by the British. Others, however, made what must have been the gut-wrenching decision to abandon their families and homes to gather with like-minded Whigs around Thomas Sumter²⁷ and James Williams²⁸ in the Charlotte and Waxhaws areas of northern South Carolina and southern North Carolina or around Francis Marion²⁹ in the swamps of eastern South Carolina.

The units formed by these men were among the most democratic institutions ever formed in North America. No only were the officers who commanded these units elected by the men who served under them, but also virtually no action was taken by any of these units without all of the officers having first met in council to reach consensus as to whether or not to engage the enemy. Having decided to engage, the strategy to be used in such engagement then became a matter on which to reach consensus. The records make it abundantly clear that no action was taken without first having reached such consensus.

There is also clear evidence that dissenters from a particular action were likely to simply abandon the unit without fear of any meaningful consequences. These units were fluid in their composition as men came and went according to their own self interests unencumbered by the rigors of traditional military discipline or by the fines and penalties provided in the Militia Act. After all, there was no Whig government to even impose much less extract any such penalties. In a very real sense, men "voted" with their feet, staying with or leaving their units according to their own perceptions of the desirability of any proposed action. Men volunteered their services under different commanders at different times according to whichever commander was engaged in an action to which the men under him subscribed. Even a cursory reading of the pension applications filed by militia veterans discloses that men served under one commander at one engagement and under a different commander at some subsequent engagement. From these records, the strong impression emerges that loyalties to units and commanders were considerably less important to the individual militiaman during this period than commitments to specific military objectives and locales.

Another common element of these units was that they existed by living off the land. Since there was no government from which to obtain pay or supplies except for the very unpredictable supplies that might be provided from time to time by the Continental Army or the state governments

of North Carolina or Virginia, the men sustained themselves by plundering the farms and plantations of supposed Tories or by issuing vouchers for claims against a then non-existent government. "Sumter's Wages" or payment by sharing the spoils taken from Tories became the accepted method of maintaining militia units in the field.

Perhaps no clearer or more succinct statement as to the composition and motivation of the Whig militia following the fall of Charleston can be found than that attributed to Samuel Hammond.³⁰ In detailing Sumter's action at Blackstock's Plantation in late November 1780, Hammond is quoted as saying:

To have a clear understanding of this transaction, and of its influence on the success of our revolution, we must recollect that there were three distinct commands of the militia, in the northern portion of South Carolina. The lower under Colonel Marion, the middle under Colonel Sumter, and the upper or western, commanded, sometimes by Colonel James Williams, and, after his death, by Pickens, sometimes by Colonel Clarke and Colonel Twiggs, of Georgia. *This division of our forces, being all militia, was caused by the local residences, families and attachment of the citizens to their own interests.*³¹

After the fall of Charleston, the backcountry Whig militia units of the Revolutionary War should not be looked at as traditional military units. They were not such units. Rather, they were democratic associations of free-roaming men motivated largely by self preservation and the desire to protect of their own families and property. These men came together to fight under such commanders as were in the field at any particular time in pursuit of objectives which each individual man determined for himself were in his best interests. If the objectives were too vague or too far removed from the interests of the individual militia man, he had a choice to make. He could find a commander pursuing objectives of interest to him. Alternatively, if he resided in a neighborhood somehow not threatened by the presence of Tories, he could retire from combat to work on his farm and support his family until the emergence of some new threat motivated his reentry into such militia unit as was addressing that threat. Not surprisingly, it was during this period of extreme instability when the need for self-preservation and protection of family and property were highest that the militia enjoyed its greatest successes at places like Brattonsville, Musgrove's Mill, King's Mountain, Blackstocks, Cowpens and Eutaw Springs.

Endnotes

¹ For those seeking more detailed examinations of the South Carolina militia, suggested reading includes: Lawrence E. Babits, *A Devil of a Whipping: The Battle of Cowpens* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1998); Michael E. Stauffer, *South Carolina's Antebellum Militia*, (Columbia: South Carolina Department of Archives & History, 1991); Jean Martin Flynn, *The Militia in Antebellum South Carolina Society*, (Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, 1991); Ronald Hoffman, Thad W. Tate and Peter J. Albert, eds., *An Uncivil War: The Southern Backcountry During the American Revolution*, (Charlottesville: United States Capitol Historical Society by The University Press of Virginia, 1985).

² The records of the First and Second Provincial Congresses and the Councils of Safety that served under their authority are dispersed in a number of sources. To review all of those records, see, William Edwin Hemphill, Editor, *The State Records of South Carolina: Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congresses of South Carolina 1775-1776*, Published for the South Carolina Department of Archives and History by the University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, South Carolina, 1960; *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society*, Vol. II, pp. 22-74, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, 1858; *Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society*, Vol. III, pp.35-271, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, 1859; The South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. I (1900), pp.41-135, pp.183-205, pp. 279-310; Vol. II (1901), pp.3-26, pp. 97-102, pp. 167-173, pp. 259-267, South Carolina Historical Society, Charleston, 1900, 1901; 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*, Vol. I and II, Charleston, 1821 (Reprinted 1969, Arno Press, Inc.; William Moultrie, *Memoirs of the American Revolution, so Far as it Related to The States of North and South Carolina and Georgia*, Vol. I, New York, 1802 (Reprinted 1968, Arno Press, Inc.); and A. S. Salley, Jr., *The History of Orangeburg County South Carolina From Its Settlement to the Close of the Revolutionary War*, Reprinted, Southern Historical Press, Inc., Greenville, South Carolina, 2001.

³ 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. See Phil Norfleet's biographical sketch of Fletchall at http://sc_tories.tripod.com/thomas_fletchall.htm.

⁴ 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.

⁵ Robert Cunningham (1739-1813) an early Tory militia leader who, following the fall of Charleston 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. See Phil Norfleet's online biographical sketch of Robert Cunningham at http://sc_tories.tripod.com/robert_cunningham1.htm.

⁶ Patrick Cunningham was Robert Cunningham's brother and the commander of the Little River Regiment of Tory militia.

⁷ The Whig'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.

⁸ William Henry Drayton (1742-1779) was one of the most avid radicals advocating for independence of South Carolina from Great Britain. He was a wealthy lowcountry planter, a gifted polemicist and member of the Continental Congress from South Carolina. Keith Krawczynski, *William Henry Drayton: South Carolina Revolutionary Patriot*, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 2001.

⁹ Command of one regiment of foot soldiers was given to William Moultrie; Christopher Gadsden commanded the other regiment of foot; and William Thomson was given command of the regiment of rangers.

¹⁰ The last Militia Act passed prior to the Revolution was enacted on June 13, 1747. According to its terms, the Act was to remain in effect for 5 years. In 1753 the Act was extended for 2 years and then revived and continued for five years by Act of 1759. Ostensibly, the Act lapsed as of 1764 and there is no record of its having been later revived or extended, but such must have been the case because there were militia units in the field at the start of the Revolution. David J. McCord, Editor, *The Statutes at Large of South Carolina*, Volume the Ninth, Columbia, South Carolina, 1841, pp. 645-663. Furthermore, the resolutions of the First Provincial Congress make it clear that those resolutions were building on an existing set of rules and regulations governing the militia.

¹¹ In addition to requiring almost universal service by white males between the ages of 16 and 60 (with exemptions from service for certain key functionaries such as members of the Council, the General Assembly, justices, attorneys, clergy, justices of the peace and, interestingly, one white man to attend every ferry in the colony), other significant provisions of the Act specified

(1) the method for commissioning officers (only the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or President of the Council were empowered to grant commissions);

(2) the limit on the number(6) of musters a captain could call in any year except in time of "insurrection, rebellion or invasion;"

(3) a list of arms each militia man was required to have at his home and to bring with him at each muster ("one gun or musket, fit for service, a cover for his lock, one cartridge box with at least 12 cartridges, filled with good gun powder and ball, a horn or flask, filled with at least a quarter of a pound of gun powder, and shot punch, with bullets proportionable to the gun powder, one girdle or belt, one ball of wax sticking to the end of his cartridge box, to defend his arms in rain, one worm and picker, four spare flints, a bayonet, sword or hatchet...");

(4) that white servants were to be supplied with the required arms by their masters;

(5) restrictions on requiring units to service outside their county, parish or division except in time of emergency and then only three quarters of the company could be called for such outside service;

(6) the powers of officers to impress "any provisions, horses, boats, canoes, pettiaugers and vessels" in any time of emergency;

(7) that the Governor, Lieutenant Governor or President of the Council would have the authority in time of emergency to

order the enlistment in the militia of black slaves (to be provisioned by their masters) provided that blacks could not compose more than one third of any militia unit embodied outside of St. Philip Parish, Charleston; or more than one half of any militia unit embodied inside said parish;

(8) the fines, penalties and procedures required to enforce the provisions of the statute.

McCord, *Statutes*, pp. 645-663.

¹² Hemphill, *Extracts*, p. 29 (emphasis added).

¹³ *Ibid.* p. 54 (emphasis added).

¹⁴ *Ibid.* pp. 666-682. It is interesting to note that this new act expressly forbid the formation of any new volunteer companies and provided for the absorption into the militia of all existing volunteer companies. Volunteer companies having served their purpose early in the life of the new state, by 1778 it was recognized that it was desirable to subject all of the state's citizen-soldiers to the new Militia Act.

¹⁵ A striking example of the continued presence of strong Tory sympathies in the area between the Broad and Saluda Rivers is the election of Robert Cunningham to the state Senate in 1778. Cunningham's opponent in that election was the diehard Whig, Col. James Williams. See, William T. Graves, *James Williams: An American Patriot in the Carolina Backcountry*, Writers Club Press, San Jose, 2002, p. 13.

¹⁶ For an excellent short history of the first Battle of Ninety Six, see, Lewis Pinckney Jones, *The South Carolina Civil War of 1775*, The Sandlapper Store, Inc., Lexington, South Carolina, 1975

¹⁷ Robert Cunningham had been arrested and sent to Charleston under orders issued by William Henry Drayton prior to the Battle of Ninety Six. The grounds for the arrest of Cunningham were provided by his disavowal of the peace treaty that Drayton previously negotiated with Fletchall. Under this treaty, Fletchall agreed on behalf of himself and, ostensibly, on behalf of the men under his command including the Cunningham brothers, not to take up arms in active opposition to the Whigs. The first Battle of Ninety Six was ignited when Patrick Cunningham and his followers intercepted a shipment of arms sent by the Whigs to the Cherokees. The Whigs maintained that the arms were merely part of the ongoing trade with the Indians. Patrick Cunningham, in an attempt to rally his men to rescue his brother from imprisonment, told his men that the arms were being shipped by the Whigs to the Cherokees not as part of ongoing trade but to arm the Indians so they could attack the Tories.

¹⁸ Andrew Williamson (c. 1730-1786) was the commanding officer of the South Carolina backcountry militia from the commencement of the war until he took parole from the British in June 1780 following the fall of Charleston.

¹⁹ Richard Richardson (1704-1780) was a backcountry militia leader through much of the war. He was a mediating force in the backcountry against persecution of the Tories.

²⁰ While it is true that Col. William Thomson and his regiment of Rangers participated in the first Battle of Ninety Six, it was the presence of the approximately 3,000 backcountry militia who rallied under Col. Richardson and Major Andrew Williamson that assured the almost bloodless surrender by the far outnumbered members of Patrick Cunningham's Tory command. Jones, *Civil War of 1775*, pp.72-83.

²¹ See, Letter dated January 28, 1783, from Andrew Williamson to Nathanael Greene with attachment dated April 25, 1780, being a General Report by Captain Benj. Tutt to Williamson regarding the deployment of militia units under Williamson's command in and around Augusta, Georgia. The letter is housed in the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

²² For an excellent examination of the evolution of agriculture and slavery in the South Carolina backcountry, see, Rachel N. Klein, *Unification of a Slave State: The Rise of the Planter Class in the South Carolina Backcountry, 1760-1808*, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London, 1990.

²³ Even during this period of relative stability, the typical militiaman showed up for service bearing his own musket or rifle and riding his own horse. Although the State may have had some sporadic success in obtaining lead, gunpowder, medicines and vittles to at least partially supply the needs of the militia from time to time, most often the men were limited to only the ammunition they brought with them and the food they could forage from the farms unfortunate enough to be in the immediate vicinity of wherever the militia gathered. After the fall of Charleston in May 1780 and the outbreak of civil war between Whig and Tory militia units roaming the backcountry, such foraging usually took the form of each side plundering the farms and plantations of their opponents. If forage was taken from sympathizers, vouchers might be issued allowing the injured party a claim for reimbursement from the government with actual payment on such vouchers being dependent on which of the two governments was left standing at the end of the war

²⁴ John Rutledge (1739-1800) was the Governor of the State of South Carolina at the time Charleston fell to the British on May 12, 1780. Rutledge had fled the city shortly before its surrender to the British. He went initially to Philadelphia to lobby Congress for aid and then returned to Hillsborough, North Carolina where he established an office in exile. Richard Barry, *Mr. Rutledge of South Carolina*, Duell,

Sloan and Pearce, New York, 1942; James Haw, *John & Edward Rutledge of South Carolina*, The University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia and London, 1997.

²⁵ Col. LeRoy Hammond (1729-1790) was the commanding officer of a backcountry militia regiment under the command of Andrew Williamson. Like Williamson, Hammond took parole from the British following the fall of Charleston, but he later reentered the war as a patriot commander under General Andrew Pickens. LeRoy Hammond was Samuel Hammond's uncle and the brother-in-law of Andrew Williamson.

²⁶ Col. Andrew Pickens (1739-1817) took parole in June 1780 but re-entered the war in late 1780 after the British or Tories burned his plantation. As a man of the utmost honor, he had resisted repeated Whigs' urgings to resume his role as a Whig commander until he felt honorably discharged from the terms of his parole by the burning of his plantation by the British. After the Battle of Cowpens, Governor Rutledge promoted Pickens to the rank of Brigadier General.

²⁷ See, Anne King Gregorie, *Thomas Sumter*, Press of The R. L. Bryan Company, Columbia, South Carolina, 1931, Reprinted by Gamecock City Printing, Inc., Sumter, South Carolina, 2000; Robert D. Bass, *Gamecock: The Life and Campaigns of General Thomas Sumter*, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 1961.

²⁸ See, Graves, *James Williams*.

²⁹ See, Robert D. Bass, *Swamp Fox: The Life and Campaigns of General Francis Marion*, Sandlapper Publishing Co., Inc., Orangeburg, South Carolina, 1959.

³⁰ Samuel Hammond (1757-1842) was an officer in the South Carolina militia and served under Thomas Sumter and James Williams.

³¹ Joseph Johnson, *Traditions and Reminiscences Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South*, Walker & James, Charleston, The Reprint Company, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1972, pp. 522-523 (emphasis added). ★

William T. Graves lives in Charlotte, NC where he is retired from the practice of law. Will, a frequent contributor to SCAR, is still researching SC Patriot Col. James Williams. SCAR hopes he will publish an expanded second edition of his book *James Williams: An American Patriot in the Carolina Backcountry*. Col. Williams was the highest ranked Patriot killed at the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Will is also interested in research on South Carolina Patriot militia Gen. Andrew Williamson.

willgraves@bellsouth.net ★

Letter and Report South Carolina Militia Gen. Andrew Williamson to Nathanael Greene After the British Evacuation of Charles Town

Transcribed and annotated by William T. Graves

January 28, 1783¹

Sir

From the conversation I had with you this morning I take the liberty of troubling you with a few particulars which are wrongfully alledged (sic, alleged) against me.

When Col. Campbell² was at Augusta³ I opposed him in crossing the Savannah River for thirteen Days and when reinforced by General Ash (sic, Ashe)⁴ made him retreat on the night of the fourteenth and there are some members in the House of Assembly know that I took every measure in my power to harrass (sic, harass) him on his March yet there are some people disposed to say that I took protection of him, also of him or some other British Officer a Bribe of Ten Thousand Guineas.

Col. Lytle⁵ who now commands the North Carolina Brigade was a witness to my actions during the whole of that time.

On my second Command on February 1780 to releave (sic, relieve) Col. Parker⁶ at Augusta. I took every step in my power to frustrate the designs (sic, designs) of the Enemy as well as to gain every Intelligence which I communicated to General Lincoln⁷ while the Communication was open.

I am accused with not opposing General Patterson [sic, Paterson]⁸ in his March from Georgia to Charlestown, but General Pickens⁹ may well remember I came to Beach Island as soon as I had Intelligence of his penetrating into Carolina with a wish to oppose him and the General will also remember that in a Conversation between us, he gave it as his opinion (sic, opinion) that Col. Twiggs¹⁰ and his people would not go in consequence of a report of a Body of Indians and some of the disaffected coming on the back parts of Georgia.

The inclosed (sic, enclosed) Return will show you what my Force was at that time and the General may also recolect (sic, recollect) how many of the Georgia Militia I ever could get to join me except when he went to Midway¹¹ with Col. Twiggs.

Governor Rutledge's¹² Orders of the 3rd of May in answer to mine by express making an offer to join him with all the Force under my Command were that he would not wish the post at Augusta to be abandoned and his orders of the 5th of May 1780 were to leave three hundred men at Augusta and come with or send the remainder to him which by the Return inclosed (sic, enclosed) you will see was not in my power. On my showing Governor Rutledge's Letters to the Governor of Georgia,¹³ I expressed my uneasiness at not being able to comply with the orders I had received but could not get from him any hopes of assistance. He and one of his Council called on me next day expressing their desire to enable me to comply with the above order at the same time requesting that if I would remain with the Ninety two Independents, the whole of the Militia might go to the assistance of the Governor. Immediately, I sent Capt. Anderson¹⁴ with the whole Militia to join Col. Pickens at the Ridge,¹⁵ who previous to this, had orders to repair there as speedily as possible with all the men he could raise from his Regt. General Pickens well knows the necessity there was for the capitulation¹⁶ for the Militia in the month of June 1780.

I have the Honour (sic, Honor) to be

Your most Obt. (sic, Obedient) Hble. (sic, Humble) Servt. (sic, Servant)

S/ **A. Williamson**

[Enclosure]

Camp at Augusta April 25, 1780

A General Report of the Troops now doing duty at Augusta & under the Command of Brig. General Andrew Williamson

	Lt. Cols.	Cpts.	Lts.	Sergts.	Corps.	D Majors	Drums	Fifes	Privates
Independents at Augusta		2	3	9	4	1	4	6	84
do at Fort William [sic, Williams] ¹⁶				1					8
Col. Pickens' Regt. Militia at New Savannah		2	4	7					44
do Escorting Mr. Galphin ¹⁷ to meet the Indians at Old Town			1	1					11
Col. Hammonds ¹⁸ Regt Militia at Augusta		3	2	4					36
Col. Williams ¹⁹ Regt do at the Cupboard ²⁰	1	3	10	12					85
at Spirit Creek ²¹			1	1					14
	1	10	21	35	4	1	4	6	282

S/ **Benj Tutt**

Capt. Indt. Compy [Captain, Independent Company]

¹ The original of this letter is located in the Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. Graves speculates it was written to Gen. Nathanael Greene in a quest for his support with the South Carolina General Assembly to bolster Williamson's defense of his estates after Williamson's surrender without resistance in June 1780.

² Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell (1739-1791), commander of the British expedition charged with capturing Savannah and Georgia in 1778-1779.

³ Campbell took Augusta on January 29, 1779.

⁴ Brig. Gen. John Ashe (1720-1781), North Carolina militia general who commanded the forces that were soundly beaten at the Battle of Briar Creek, Georgia, on March 3, 1779. In a subsequent court-martial proceeding chaired by General William Moultrie, Ashe was censured for "want of sufficient vigilance."

⁵ Archibald Lytle (1730-1790), North Carolina continental officer serving under the command of John Ashe at Briar Creek. He and his North Carolina Continentals maintained discipline during the route of the patriots and covered the retreat of the militia commanded by Ashe.

- ⁶ Col. Richard Parker, commander of the 1st Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line. This unit was stationed on Spirit Creek south of Augusta, Georgia, prior to the British invasion of South Carolina. He and his unit were ordered to Charleston to participate in defense of that city. He was killed by rifle fire on April 24, 1780, while attempting to make observations from the trenches during the British siege of Charleston.
- ⁷ General Benjamin Lincoln (1733-1810), commander of the Continental and militia forces defending Charleston from the British siege in the spring of 1780
- ⁸ Brig. Gen. James Paterson, commander of a British force sent by Sir Henry Clinton to make a diversionary march toward Augusta as part of Clinton's 1780 campaign to take Charleston. Paterson's force was recalled by Clinton and participated in the successful siege of Charleston.
- ⁹ Andrew Pickens (1739-1817), a South Carolina militia officer who served under Andrew Williamson up until they, along with other backcountry patriot officers, took parole from the British in June 1780 following the fall of Charleston. Unlike Williamson, Pickens renounced his parole following the burning of his home by Tory or British troops in late 1780 and returned to command a regiment of militia that took a very active role in the war until its conclusion.
- ¹⁰ Col. (later, General) John Twiggs (1750-1816) of Burke County, Georgia. He commanded Georgia militia troops in numerous engagements in Georgia.
- ¹¹ Coastal Georgia settlement burned by British in 1778 in their first attempt to invade Georgia from their stronghold in East Florida.
- ¹² John Rutledge (1739-1800), Governor of South Carolina at the time of the siege of Charleston in 1780.
- ¹³ The Governor of Georgia in the spring of 1780 was Stephen Heard (1740-1815). He held the office of Governor from February 18, 1780-August 18, 1781.
- ¹⁴ Robert Anderson (1741-1813), a member of Andrew Pickens' regiment and, along with Pickens and others under Andrew Williamson's command, a parolee who subsequently reentered the war on the patriot side following British violations of their paroles. Col. Anderson, namesake of Anderson County, SC is buried in the Old Stone Church near Clemson, SC.
- ¹⁵ Williamson is referring to the paroles accepted by himself and a number of his officers in June 1780 following the fall of Charleston. Along with Williamson, Andrew Pickens, LeRoy Hammond, Robert Anderson, Daniel Huger and Charles Pinckney, among others, accepted such paroles.
- ¹⁶ Williams Fort was located on the plantation owned by Col. James Williams. The fortifications are believed to have been on Mudlick Creek in modern day Laurens County at the Newberry County line.
- ¹⁷ George Galphin, an Indian trader who organized an attack by the Creek Indians on loyalists in Georgia.
- ¹⁸ Col. LeRoy Hammond, a commander of one of the militia regiments under Williamson's command and Williamson's brother-in-law.
- ¹⁹ Col. James Williams (1740-1780), commander of the Little River Regiment of South Carolina militia. Williams was the highest ranking patriot officer to die as a result of wounds suffered at the Battle of King's Mountain on October 7, 1780.
- ²⁰ The Cupboard Swamp located south of Augusta and now covered by Clark Hill Lake.
- ²¹ Spirit Creek located south of Augusta and now partly covered by Clark Hill Lake.

Betty Jane Miller of Barnwell, SC wrote *SCAR* in response to seeing James W. Simmons' poem on Thomas Sumter in the April 2005 edition reminding me that South Carolina poet William Gilmore Simms wrote the more famous poem about South Carolina Militia General Thomas Sumter, which she kindly included for our enjoyment.

From *Selected Poems of William Gilmore Simms*, edited by James Everett Kibler, Jr., 1990. University of Georgia Press, Athens, Georgia.

i
In brutal rage exulting,
The reckless foeman came,
One hand displayed the weapon,
The other bore the flame.

ii
Crouched in the thorny thicket,
The game cock watching stood—
Quoth he, "Some day I'll quench this
flame, And it shall be with blood."

iii
"I'll build a stronger dwelling,
With rifle, steel and knife,
And will ensure these rascal foes,
A lodge in it for life!

iv
"I'll place on every door post,
A hospitable sign;
And make their slumber certain,
Though they deny mine!

v
"Wife, children, driven to wander,
Amid this wintry wild;
No shelter for the mother, —
No covering for the child!

vi
"Oh! for the work of vengeance, —
The time will yet be given;
For this I've deadly work on earth,
And a dread vow in heaven!

vii
"Yes! hear me, skies and forests,
While now I vow and pray,
For the coming of the hour,
When I may smite and slay!

viii
"Oh then, to smite unsparing,
Let every chord be strung,
That I may wring these fiendish hearts,
As my poor babes' are wrung.

ix
"For every tear they shed to-night,
A score of hearts shall bleed:
For every shivering infant's wail
There shall be bloody deed!

x
"Thousands of goodly yeomen,
Yet harbor in the wild;
I'll bid them welcome to the sport,

Avenging wife and child!

xi
"I'll show them yonder ruins,
And where the lintel stood;
They'll see me make new cement
Of some foul foeman's blood!

xii
"I'll teach them that the felon,
Who dares free homes invade,
Must quiver in the halter,
Or perish 'neath the blade!

xiii
"The homes of men are sacred,
And when the lawless foe
Breaks in the charter'd dwelling,
He bides the deadly blow!

xiv
"No law to shield the lawless,
No prayer the wretch to save,
Who seeks to make of precious homes,
A ruin and a grave!

xv
"No mercy for the felon,
Who, like the wolf by night,

Prowls round the freeman's dwelling,
And shrinks by day from fight.

xvi

"Short shrift for the usurper,
Who seeks to rob the brave;
And sudden cord and mansion deep,
In dungeons of the grave!

xvii

"For the dread hour of vengeance
Be swift occasion given;

For this, I have a work on earth,
And a dread vow in Heaven!"

xviii

And well that vow of midnight,
Thus murmur'd in the wood,
Was kept by gallant Sumter,
In many a field of blood.

xix

Bear witness fields of "Cowpens,"
When Tarleton felt the shock;

Bear witness, crimson currents,
That flow'd down "Hanging Rock."

xx

Such witness as to ages,
Unborn, shall ever show,
How best to guard the freeman's home
Against the felon foe!

★



Extant rifle pit, originally about six feet deep, was excavated by archaeologist from Brockington and Associates at the Patriot camp at the Fish Dam Ford battlefield. Only one chewed musket ball was recovered. These pits are routinely found on Civil War sites. Photo by David P. Reuwer.



Another view of a unique Fish Dam Ford hillside rifle pit, probably dug to guard the northern approaches to the hilltop camp. These pits are threatened by the construction of a replacement bridge over the Broad River. Photo by David P. Reuwer.

Contributions Solicited

Articles, annotated pension statements, your favorite websites, book lists and reviews, artifacts, maps and photographs are all solicited.

Your contributions of money and articles, and my "real" job continue to allow SCAR a monthly publication schedule. There is no subscription or fee at this time; however SCAR solicits 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. Please let SCAR know your email address and preferred medium.

SCAR has been requested to layout the newsletter with a wider binding margin on the left. We will give it a try again.

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.

To improve the publication, better maps, more artwork and graphics are desirable and a volunteer with layout experience would be great.

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

CBB ★

Col. John Thomas – Spartan Regiment –South Carolina Patriot Militia

Our search for Revolutionary Heritage takes us to the beautiful Camp Croft State Part in Spartanburg County, SC. Ilene Jones Cornwell of Nashville, Tennessee has researched her ancestors, Cols. John Thomas, Sr. and Jr., Patriot commandants of the Upper Spartan Regiment. The original Patriot Spartan Regiment divided in 1777 in to the upper or 1st Spartan Regiment, commanded by Col. John Thomas, Sr. and the lower or 2d Spartan Regiment, commanded by Col. Thomas Brandon. Mrs. Cornwell's notes are particularly useful in putting the Thomas story on the ground and show the extent of research that has been done to locate, document and commemorate our Revolutionary War heroes and sites.

Col. John Thomas, Sr. fought in the Snow Campaign, at Tamassy, and at the Black Hole of the Coweecho River, accepting the British parole after the surrender of Gen. Andrew Williamson at Ninety Six in May 1780. Command of his regiment then devolved to his son, Col. John Thomas, Jr. Col. John Thomas, Jr. fought in the Snow Campaign, at Cedar Springs, Cowpens, Bush River, and at the Battle of Shubrick's Plantation. The story of Jane Black Thomas, wife of John Thomas, Sr. makes her a true heroine of the Revolution, fighting the Loyalist and riding to warn the Patriot militia mustered at Cedar Springs.

by Ilene Jones Cornwell

Although the admonition of English historian and writer Sir Thomas Brown—"To be nameless in worthy deeds exceeds an infamous history"—became part of published literature 347 years ago, those mindful of that admonition in our present generation are in the minority.

This stark reality was confirmed in early March when I began trying to locate a knowledgeable person in Spartanburg to lead me and other family members to the historical marker signifying the Revolutionary War home site and family burial ground of my sixth-great-grandparents, John and Jane Black Thomas, and their offspring—all of whom were intrepid Patriots in our war for independence. I knew from an article published in the Spartanburg Herald-Journal on March 2, 2002, that military historian Dr. George Fields had located the commemorative marker, placed in 1904 above Fairforest Creek in present Croft State Park and Natural Area by the Spartanburg Daughters of the American Revolution. He had led SHJ reporter Gary Henderson to the isolated iron-fence-enclosed marker the previous February, which resulted in the published story on March 2. At that time, Dr. Fields suggested the need for a trail to the DAR's Thomas marker to provide accessibility for interested citizens. Did such a trail now exist?

Seeking to answer that question, I surfed through the Internet website for Croft State Park; there was no mention of any trail to any historical marker. Frustrated, I continued my search and stumbled across the website for the original Camp Croft, operated during 1940—1946 as a U. S. Army Infantry Replacement Training Center. I also discovered that 7,088 acres of the World War II Camp Croft land had been transferred in 1950 to the South Carolina Commission of Forestry for creation of Croft State Park and Natural Area. Since there was an e-mail contact for the website's creator Ron Crawley—Camp Croft and military history buff—I posed my question to him: Is there a trail to the DAR's Thomas marker in Croft Park?

From Ron Crawley came the long-sought answer: No, at present there is no trail to the marker. But George Fields' suggestion in 2002 had not been overlooked. "More recently, interest has grown among a group of local professional and amateur historians and the Spartanburg Historical Association to drive Dr. Fields' nearly three-year-old vision closer to reality," wrote Crawley. "The group would like to see efforts combined with the South Carolina Department of

Parks and Recreation, corporate sponsors, and the local community in developing the proposed trail."

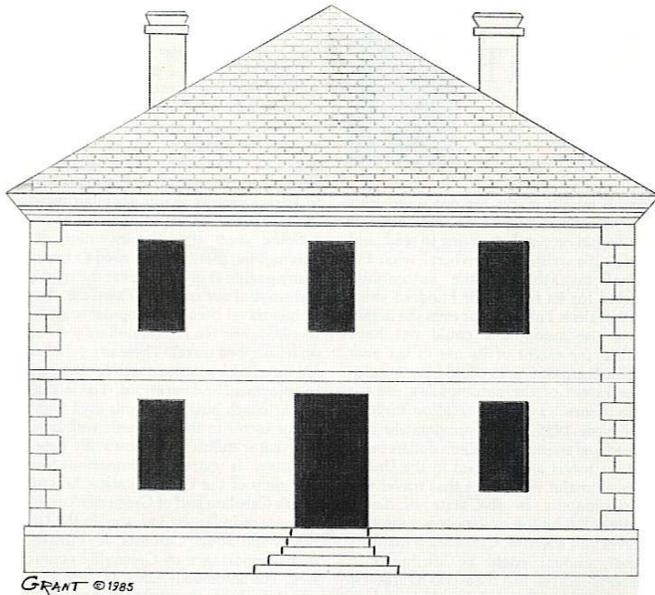
Unfortunately, the military history of the land embraced within Croft State Park and Natural Area boundaries is both a boon and a bane. In addition to the Revolutionary War skirmishes and campsites scattered throughout the southeastern area of the park, the modern history of Camp Croft impacts upon land use. "A major stumbling block is the state requirement for a munitions study to ensure the safety of the path's right of way," Crowley advised. "Much of Croft State Natural Area was once the maneuver, firing, and impact areas of a World War II Infantry Replacement Center."

This complicating factor obviously slows the process of creating the desired trail to the DAR's Thomas marker, but it cannot be allowed to nullify the significance of this hallowed ground in Revolutionary War history. The story of the colonial Thomas family is a microcosm of South Carolina's Upcountry and should be broadly circulated, not allowed to fade into "nameless" status!

When Welshman John Thomas (1718-1811) and his Pennsylvania-born wife Jane Black Thomas (1720-1811) brought their children from Pennsylvania to South Carolina around 1749, they and their accompanying Scot-Irish-Welsh neighbors found themselves up to their necks in Cherokee Indian territory. Their first homestead on Fishing Creek at Catawba River and the second, in 1762, near the confluence of Fairforest and Kelso creeks in the Upper or Broad River District, had to be defended constantly from marauding Cherokees and allied tribes. Just when it seemed a decade of self-defense had brought some peace and stability to the Upper Piedmont, the Revolutionary War broke out in the northeast and swept southward. John Thomas had been commander of the area's Royal militia, taking part in Braddock's defeat in 1755 and in the French and Indian War campaign against the Cherokees in 1762. When the British-colonial hostilities began in the early 1770s, Thomas resigned his English commission and formed the Patriots' Spartan Regiment in 1775. He was elected colonel and commander of the militia, in which the older Thomas sons—John, Jr., Abram, and Robert—and several sons-in-law served. The Thomas matriarch, her daughters, and her daughters-in-law all were as immersed in the defense of the Upper Piedmont as their men, and a number of sites serve as reminders of their valiant deeds.

In the southeastern section of Spartanburg County's Croft State Park and Natural Area, just above the junction of Kelso/Kelsey and Fairforest creeks, is the site of the Thomas parental homestead during the Revolutionary War. Here, in late 1779 (one account uses the date of spring 1780), local Tories decided to confiscate the Patriots' ammunition cache, stored since 1776 at the Thomases' two-story log home, for the Patriots purpose. Colonel Thomas and part of the Spartan Regiment were off fighting in Charlestown, while about 25 of the Spartan regulars under command of Captain John Thomas, Jr., were guarding the ammunition and arms in and near the homestead. Tending the home-fires were Jane Thomas, three of her daughters, and her youngest child, William, too young to serve in the Spartan Regiment. As Tory Colonel Patrick Moore and 150 (one account records 300) men marched toward the home, Captain Thomas and his men gathered as much of the ammunition as they could carry and rode off to hide it from the Loyalist. Remaining in the home to create a diversion were Jane, her daughters and son, and her son-in-law Josiah Culbertson, Martha's husband. Jane and her offspring formed a production line and started feeding bullets to Culbertson as fast as their hands could fly. Culbertson, a veteran Indian fighter and noted marksman, moved from rifle slot to rifle slot around the log house, keeping up a steady barrage of fire on the Tories. The gunfire was so fast and furious that the Tories believed the whole patriot guard remained inside. As the Tories began a final assault upon the home, Jane "advanced in front of them, with a sword in her hand, and dared them to come on. They were intimidated and retired." Recalling the incident in 1832, Captain Culbertson observed, "The destruction of this ammunition would have been a serious loss to the Americans. The same ammunition was afterwards made use of by [General Thomas] Sumter at his fight on the Rocky

Mount and the Battle of Hanging Rock." Fortunately for posterity, a record of this remarkable battle at the Thomas home is found on the tombstone of Jane's daughter, Ann Thomas McJunkin, wife of Major Joseph McJunkin. The couple's graves are marked in the McJunkin Cemetery on the Sartor farm in Union County, five miles south of Union on U. S. Highway 176. The only other physical reminder of this "unsung" family is the 1904 marker placed by the Spartanburg Daughters of the American Revolution at "the Thomas family burial ground" (where probably lie the remains of two of the Thomas sons: Captain Robert Thomas, killed March 2, 1781, at the Battle of Mud Lick Creek or Roebuck's Defeat, and Abram Thomas, who died in early 1781 while imprisoned by the British at Ninety-Six) in the southeastern section of Croft State Park and Natural Area.



The Ninety Six Jail, in which Jane Thomas' husband and two sons were imprisoned in 1780, probably looked like the district jails constructed under legislative standards which originated in Charleston in 1769. An archaeological study of the Ninety Six jail, built in 1772, notes that structure probably contained a dungeon, two stories, and a garret room. The jail site was excavated in 1974 and is marked with interpretative information at the Ninety Six National Historic Site. (Above drawing by Grant Cornwell after the measured drawing published in NINETY SIX: THE JAIL, AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT BY S.L. Holschlag, M.J. Rodeffer, and M.L. Cann, 1978. Furnished by Ninety Six Historic Site, National Park Service.)

About 60 miles southeast of Spartanburg is another site associated with Jane Black Thomas' courage: The National Park Service's Ninety Six Historic Site, where Jane's husband John and two of their sons, Abram and Robert, were imprisoned in the two-story brick jail in June of 1780. When Jane went to visit her men folk on July 11, she overheard two Tory women talking. One woman said to the other, "Tomorrow night the Loyalists intend to surprise the Rebels at Cedar Spring." Jane's heart must have missed several beats upon hearing of the planned attack.

Cedar Spring, a few miles from the Thomas home, was where her son, John, had headquartered about 60 members of the reorganized Spartan Regiment. Several of her sons-in-law and various kin were at Cedar Spring with the Flying Camp--a name often applied to the Spartan Regiment because of its frequency of

action and movement. The little, black-haired Irishwoman didn't wait around for confirmation of the overheard Tory gossip. She rushed to her horse and made a hasty departure from Ninety-Six jail, heading northwest to warn the Spartans of the impending attack. She rode over 60 miles of rough, forbidding terrain during the night and through the following day, arriving at Cedar Spring with the timely warning. Then, as Jane rode on to her home, a plan was drawn up to entrap the Tories. The Spartans built up their campfires at dusk to burn brightly near improvised bedrolls. Then the men withdrew and hid themselves in the surrounding forest. They had not long to wait. Shortly after preparations were complete, 150 British and Tory soldiers cautiously advanced to surprise the "sleeping" Spartans. The soldiers suddenly found themselves attacked from the rear by the militia they had expected to surprise. "Thrown into confusion by this unexpected reception, defeat, overwhelming defeat, was the consequence to the loyalists.....The victory thus easily achieved they owed to the spirit and courage of a woman!"

After the Revolutionary War's conclusion, John and Jane Black Thomas established yet another homestead in the western frontier. In 1785 the Thomases, including young William, moved to the vicinity of Greenville (near present Greer), after Colonel Thomas had been appointed in 1784 as commissioner of land locations for the north side of Saluda River--the new Greenville County. Here the couple resided and prospered until their deaths just six months apart in 1811. Until the day of her death on April 16, 1811, spunky Jane Thomas adamantly refused to drink tea, saying it was "the blood of the poor men who first fell in the war."

Although Colonel John Thomas and his four sons have been lauded for their valor in the struggle to create American independence, Jane Black Thomas also was a "sincere and spirited whig"--a Patriot--and remained so to the very end of her 91 years. The Thomas family's unerring loyalty and fearless devotion to American freedom, mirrored in thousands of other Upcountry families, must not be forgotten and allowed to fade into "nameless" status. As historian George Fields so aptly described the site in 2002, "This is the tap root of who we are. If you want to teach kids the greatness of this country, a place like this is where you ought to bring them." The site of the Thomas parental homeplace should be awarded Historic Landmark status, and the long-neglected DAR hillside marker to the Thomas family burial ground must have an established trail to provide access to this hallowed ground!

Sources: Obituary of Jane Black Thomas, "Carolina Gazette", Charleston, S.C. (May 25, 1811); *Women of the American Revolution*, Vol. I (1848), by Elizabeth F. Ellett; *Major Joseph McJunkin, or Original Sketches of the Revolutionary History of South Carolina*, by Reverend James Hodge Saye, Richmond (VA) "Watchman and Observer" (September 21, 1848); *History of the Presbyterian Church of South Carolina*, Vol. I, (1870), by Reverend George Howe; *King's Mountain and Its Heroes* (1881), by Lyman C. Draper; *History of Spartanburg County, South Carolina* (1900), by Dr. John B. O. Landrum; *Some Heroes of the American Revolution* (1924), by Reverend James D. Bailey; *The Revolution Remembered: Eyewitness Accounts of the War for Independence* (1980), edited by John C. Dann; and "Jane Thomas: Heroine or Feminist?" by Ilene J. Cornwell, "Greenville Magazine", April 1986

Ilene Jones-Cornwell has specialized in southern cultural and historical features, as well as conservation and environmental issues, since 1968. Her writings include profiles of Willie Brown, Adam Clayton Powell, and Salem Poor in *Notable Black American Men* (1998); profiles of Negro and Jewish suffragists from Nashville/Davidson County in *The Perfect 36: Tennessee Delivers Woman Suffrage* (1998); introductory essay and profiles in *Biographical Directory of the Tennessee General Assembly*, four volumes spanning 1901-1991 (compiled and edited during 1986-1990); *Natchez Trace: Pathway to Parkway* (1986 screenplay and 1988 documentary film); *Travel Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway Between Nashville, TN, and Natchez, MS* (1984); "Nancy Ward: Last Beloved Woman of the Cherokees" in *Heroes of Tennessee* anthology (1979); entries in *Tennessee Women, Past and Present* (1977); "Notable Tennessee Women" (the first feature on women) in 1975-1976 *Tennessee Blue Book*; *Early Travels on the Natchez Trace* screenplay (1974); *Footsteps Along the Harpeth* (1970; 1976). A seventh-generation descendant of Spartanburg, SC, Revolutionary War Patriots Colonel John and Jane Black Thomas, Jones-Cornwell made her home in western Davidson County, Tennessee where she has reared two sons while engaged in literary and civic endeavors. ijcorn@bellsouth.net



Excerpt from USGS 7.5 minute topographic map, Glenn Springs quadrangle shows approximate locations of Col. John (Sr.) and Jane Black Thomas' homestead and 1904 DAR marker at the Thomas family cemetery, all located in the Croft State Park in Spartanburg County, SC. Croft State Park was the site of the 22,000 acre Camp Croft, a major WWII Army infantry training base. Loyalist Lt. Col. John Moore led an attack on February 6, 1779 to capture SC Patriot Militia Colonels John Thomas, Sr. and William Wofford and a store of gunpowder at the Thomas Homestead. Patriot Josiah Culbertson, Jane Thomas and her children successfully defended the house and Patriots' military stores.

Metal detectorist beware that there is reported to be unexploded military ordinance on the Croft State Park site and removing historic artifacts is generally prohibited by law in State Parks.

John & Jane Black Thomas Home, c.1762-1784, Fairforest Creek at Kelso / Kelsey Creek, Spartanburg County, South Carolina, and Fairforest Presbyterian Church. [Comments by author, Ilene Jones Cornwell set within brackets.]

“On the north side of Fairforest, near the mouth of Kelso’s Creek, a beautiful elevated ridge rises and extends in the direction of the present White Stone Station on the Southern Railway. From the time of the earliest settlements, it has been known as Rich Hill. This tract of land has also been long pointed out as the reputed homestead of Colonel John Thomas, Sr., during and after the Revolution. A short distance to the westward from the public highway leading from White Stone to Foster’s Mill and bridge on Fairforest, the site of the house and family burying ground are said to be. This site is about one mile from the Forest. In 1904 the D.A.R.’s of Spartanburg placed a marker over the supposed graves of Colonel John and Mrs. Jane Thomas, which is a granite block with a bronze tablet embedded in it, bearing the following inscription: “Erected, 1904, to the memory of Colonel John Thomas and his wife, Jane Thomas, by the Spartanburg Daughters of the American Revolution’s.” Later an iron fence enclosed this marker.

“These acts of patriotism are greatly to be admired; but there is one unfortunate thing about it—the marker is at the wrong place. [Only “half” wrong. This probably was the family burying ground, but not the site of the Thomas homestead; see following insertions.] The records in the office of the Register of Deeds at Spartanburg show, most conclusively, that the beautiful tract of land described above never belonged to Colonel John Thomas, Sen., at all. It was originally granted

to Peter Johnson by William Tryon, Governor of North Carolina, December 11th, 1770.”

[According to primary research by Thomas family historian Leonard McCown of Irving, Texas, lands owned by John Thomas and his son, Col. John Thomas, Jr., overlapped in the Fairforest area. John Senior, who first brought the family to the Fishing Creek area—present Chester Co.—received two North Carolina land grants in Anson County in 1754 and 1755, which became Camden District in 1769, after his removal in 1762 to Ninety-Six District. On July 5, 1771, John Thomas purchased from Giles and Constant Tillet land in Charleston Co., SC, on file in the County Clerk’s Office, Charleston, Deed Records G-4:307-311; see following reference to 1796 land sale “joining lands laid off for John Thomas, Sen. . . and James Tillette.” Also, the Reverend Bailey includes on page 69 of this work: “There is on record at the courthouse in Spartanburg a conveyance dated March 21st, 1786, by Thomas Tod and his wife, Ann, to John Thomas, Sen., conveying four hundred and forty acres of land on the northeast side of the “South Fork of Tyger River above the ancient boundary in the State aforesaid granted to Major Parsons.” The deed describes John Thomas, Sen., as “commissioner of Locations for the north side of Saluda River.” Having been appointed in 1784 as Commissioner of Locations for the north side of Saluda River—present Greenville County—John and Jane Black Thomas, with their youngest son, William Davis Thomas, had moved to the place he called “Milford” near the present Greer in Greenville County by 1785. In theory, the land purchase of March 21, 1786, could have been an “early inheritance” from John Thomas, Sr., to his deceased son Robert’s wife and children.]

Page 66 continued—"The following are extracts from Deed Book "F", pages 101 and 102: JOHN THOMAS TO MOSES FOSTER Deed—14th April, 1798.

"Know all men by these presents, that I, John Thomas, of Spartanburg and State aforesaid, for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred dollars, to him in hand paid by Moses Foster, of the said county and State, have granted, bargained, sold and released, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell and release unto the said Moses Foster a certain parcel or tract of land lying in Spartanburg County on the north side of Fairforest, bounded as follows: Beginning at a black oak on the west side of Rich Hill and a branch called Long Branch—running thence N.70, E.52 chains and fifty links—containing four hundred acres, more or less," etc. etc.

"This deed was signed by John Thomas, Shands Golightly and Martha Golightly. It was witnessed by James Smith, John Foster and M. Louvina Smith on March 21st, 1798.

"The following is quite interesting: State of South Carolina—Spartanburg County. I, Isham Harrison, one of Judges of the county aforesaid, do hereby certify unto all whom it may concern that Martha Golightly, *mother to the within named John Thomas*, did this day appear before me, and being privately and separately examined by me, did declare that she does freely, voluntarily and without any compulsion, dread or fear of any person or persons whosoever, renounce, release, and forever bequeath unto the within named Moses Foster, his heirs and assigns, all her interest and estate—also all her right and claim of dower of, in, or to all and singular the premises above mentioned and released. Given under my hand and seal this 9th day of April, 1798. MARTHA GOLIGHTLY (Seal) I. HARRISON, Judge of County." [On page 102 also appears: "Note – This Tract of Land was granted to Peter Johnston the Eleventh day of December 1770 by William Tryon, governor of N. Carolina & stands No. 49 in the Secretarys office of that state in book Aps. 13 by – Wm Palmer D. Surv'y -- Entered in the auditor general office of No. Carolina the 3rd day of January 1771 --- by John Yarohock (?cannot read signature), auditor."]

Page 67 continued—"The John Thomas who sold the Rich Hill lands to Moses Foster could not have been Colonel John, Sen., who was born in Wales between the years 1715 and 1720."

Some Heroes of the American Revolution, by the Rev. James D. Bailey (Spartanburg, SC: Band & White, 1924); excerpts from chapter, "The Life of Colonel John Thomas, Sr.", pages 57-69.

[The Reverend James Bailey was correct. This John Thomas was the son of Robert Thomas, 1747—1781, and grandson of Colonel John Thomas, Sr. (1718—1811) and Jane Black Thomas (1720-1811). Robert Thomas was killed March 2, 1781, at the Battle of Mud Lick Creek or Roebuck's Defeat, leaving his widow Martha Hanna Thomas (c.1750—died before 1820) with their son John and three daughters on his homestead, purchased January 30, 1772, from Peter Johnston, Deed Record G-4:303-304, Register of Mesne Conveyances Office, Charleston, SC. At that time the land was in Tyron Co., NC, but today is in Spartanburg Co., SC. As the widow of Capt. Robert Thomas, Martha Thomas was "paid one year's annuity, 8 pounds, 15 shillings, 4 Jan. 1785, as recorded in the S. C. House of Representatives Annuities

Reports, 1784-1785, Record Group AA, 5849-A, on file in the S. C. Archives, Columbia. Martha Hanna Thomas obviously married a second time in 1786 to Shands Golightly of Spartanburg County, for on January 4, 1787, application was made to the "Comt. of the Treasury for South Carolina" by Shands Golightly to "please to deliver to Capt. James Crawford, all the Indents due Robert Thomas Deceased, which is due him by Several Services done South Carolina and in doing so you'll oblige Your humble Servant, Shands Golightly." Below Golightly's script is written: "I do certify that the above Shands Golightly is the Acting Adm'r upon the said Robert Thomas Estate. J. Thomas, Jun., J. P. _96 Ds." Military Record 7732 for Thomas, Robert, National Archives, on file in South Carolina Archives and in Spartanburg Public Library.]

Page 67 continued—"The following entry is also made in Book of Deeds "D", pages 436 and 437: December 1st, 1796, John Thomas, Jun., of Greenville County, conveyed to Joseph Wofford, 'all that plantation, tract, or parcel of land situated in Spartanburg county, *on both sides of Fairforest Creek*, containing two hundred and fifty acres, including the plantation whereon the said John Thomas formerly lived, joining lands laid off for John Thomas, Sen., Josiah Culbertson and James Tillette—except a few acres sold to said Culbertson—when said land was granted to the John Thomas, Jun., in the year of our Lord 1771, under the hand of William Tryon, then Governor of North Carolina." [In this same document, recorded in Spartanburg County Conveyance Book D, 1794-1797, page 436, is a description of the senior Thomas family homestead containing "the Houses, barns, gardens, orchards, fields, pastures, ways, waters and water courses, paths, passages, and . . . appurtenances thereunto . . ."]

"This deed was signed by John Thomas, Jun., only, November 28th, 1795, in the presence of George Roebuck and Andrew Thompson. The next year Joseph Wofford conveyed the property to James Barnette. In 1799, James Barnett conveyed that portion lying on the south side of Fairforest to Richard Barnette, and in this deed it is spoken of as a part of the plantation belonging to John Thomas. In 1800, Richard Barnette sold to William Lancaster; and in 1802 he conveyed this tract of one hundred and sixty-seven acres to Zachariah McDaniel. In 1829, McDaniel conveyed to William M. Kennedy four hundred acres of Fairforest Creek called McDanielsville. This deed states that it was composed of sundry tracts described in the records.

"The records show that James Barnette, the second owner [error: not the second owner; see notes on previous page] of the Thomas lands, conveyed to William Lancaster a tract of three acres on Fairforest which contained a shoal, and that Lancaster and McDaniel built a grist mill there. This is described as "Buffington old tract." Subsequently Lancaster and McDaniel conveyed this property to Daniel White. Undoubtedly, this site is the one on which Foster's Mill now stands.

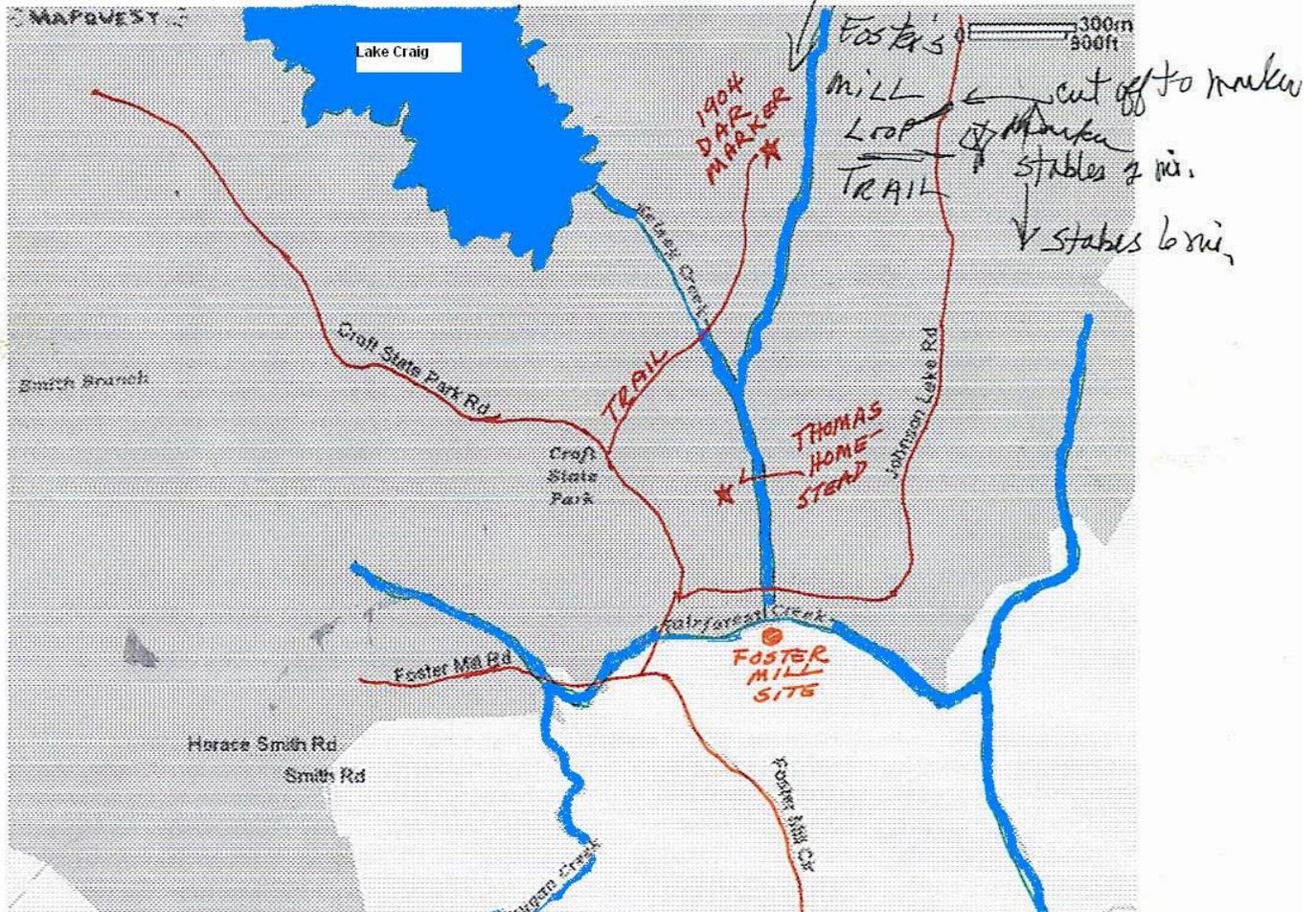
"In 1830 Wm. Kennedy conveyed the McDanielsville plantation to George Kellock, 'but not including the three acre tract on which Antioch Methodist church now stands.'

"As Antioch Methodist Church yet stands—1924—the immediate vicinity of the Thomas homestead is easily located, and shows that Mr. Saye was right when he said that Col. John Thomas, Sen., 'lived on Fairforest just above the mouth of Kelso's Creek.' "

Southeastern Croft Notes: *State Park,*
Site of John + Jane Black Thomas
homestead, c. 1762-1785, and
1904 DAR marker to burial ground.



Hand drawn map by Ilene Jones Cornwell of trails to Col. John Thomas, Sr. homestead and DAR marker, which is probably at Thomas family cemetery. Thomas land was around Fairforest Creek at mouth of Kelso / Kelsey Creek in Spartanburg County in Croft State Park.



John and Jane Black Thomas Fairforest Creek Homeplace, c. 1762—1785 and Revolutionary War Activities

Second publication in the *Piedmont Headlight*, Spartanburg, South Carolina, (no month and day given) 1898. Third, facsimile printing “from a copy in Kennedy Free Library, Spartanburg, S.C.,” in 41-page booklet format under the title, *Memoirs of Major Joseph McJunkin, Revolutionary Patriot*, by Rev. James Hodge Saye, published by A Press Printing Company, Greenville, SC, 1977 (pagination in the booklet form referenced for following excerpts, with comments by Ilene Jones Cornwell set within brackets).

Page 2—“Major Joseph McJunkin was born on June 22, 1755, near Carlisle, in the State of Pennsylvania. His father, Samuel McJunkin, was a native of Ireland. His mother, whose maiden name was Bogan, was a native of Pennsylvania. . . .At the time of his birth the frontier country of Pennsylvania and Virginia was in a state of consternation. The defeat of Gen. Braddock had just occurred. All the Indian tribes bordering on those States were in a hostile attitude before that

melancholy event; and its occurrence opened the way for them to fall at any point upon the defenseless whites. Large numbers fled, leaving home and property, and sought safety in the interior. . . .Just before these events the Governor of South Carolina had obtained by treaty with the Cherokee Indians the peaceful possession of a large, fertile and salubrious territory. . . .from the Peedee to the Savannah rivers [including] the rich valleys of the Catawba, Broad, Saluda and Savannah Rivers, with their numerous tributaries.

“Under these circumstances a large number of the exiles in Pennsylvania and Virginia, with their friends, sought homes in the sunny plains of the South. . . .Among those emigrants Samuel McJunkin came to South Carolina and stopped on Timber Creek Dec. 24, 1775. In the same section a number of his relatives and friends settled about the same time [continues with background of Scot-Irish settlers, who were Whigs and “nearly all Presbyterians”].

Page 4—At the “commencement of the Revolution War. . . .Col. Fletchall resided on Fairforest at the place now known as McBeth’s Mills. This Fletchall held a Colonel’s commission under the Royal Government prior to the suspension of that Government in the

Province of South Carolina. . .and when a commission was tendered him by the Republican Party in the State he refused it and exerted his influence among the people to induce them to continue their allegiance to the crown. At this period Samuel McJunkin, his relatives and friends, were prominent in the Liberty Party.

Pages 4-5—"Accordingly, in the summer of 1775, when the Rev. William Tennant of the Presbyterian Church, the Rev. Oliver Hart of the Baptist Church, and Mr. Drayton, who had been requested by the Provincial Council to travel through the State and explain to the people the grounds of the controversy with the mother country, were passing through the District of Ninety Six they were accompanied by Joseph McJunkin [as guide] through that part of the country now known as Laurens, Spartanburg, Union and Chester.

Page 6—"In the month of November [1775] the Provincial Congress raised an army for the purpose of subduing the Tories and reducing the Indians [who had by then formed an alliance with Tory "Cunningham and his party"] to peace, as they were now committing depredations along the frontiers. [Patriot] Gen. Richardson was appointed Commander in Chief of this expedition. Col. John Thomas, who resided on Fairforest Creek just above the mouth of Kelso's Creek, was ordered by Richardson to raise a regiment and meet him at Granby. The regiment was raised without drafting a man. In this expedition Joseph McJunkin made his first essay in arms in the company of Capt. Thomas Brandon. . . [While encamped at Weaver's Ferry on the Saluda,] two of Col. Fletchall's emissaries, Benjamin Woffard and Betty Scruggs, made their appearance. They were on their return from Charleston, whither they had gone to carry dispatches to the British Governor. . . Some of the soldiers recognized them and gave notice to Col. Thomas of their character and probably intentions. By his [Col. Thomas's] orders they were arrested and searched. Upon the person of the woman a bundle of papers was discovered which disclosed to the General the intended movements of the Tories and the plan of union with the British Governor.

The Snow Campaign. ". . .we marched to Liberty Hill, now in Laurens District, where we met the army from North Carolina. . . Hence the two armies proceeded to a place on Rabun's Creek called Hollingsworth's Mills, where we arrived Dec. 25, 1775. At this place a noted snowstorm occurred, which gave the expedition the name of the Snow Campaign.

Page 7—Prepare for Indians. "From various indications among the Indians in the first part of the spring of 1775 the Whigs along the frontiers felt apprehensions of danger, but had no means of knowing the nature of the conspiracy. . . In the month of May a number of soldiers embodied under Gen. Williamson and a camp formed upon Fairforest Creek in the vicinity of Col. Thomas's. Messengers were sent out to ascertain the intention of the Indians. These messengers were killed. [Narrative of Williamson and his men, who pursued the Indians to the nearest towns on Seneca and Tugaloo, where "different battles and skirmishes occurred in the environs of these towns."]

Page 8—" . . .on Sept. 22 [1775], the advance of Williamson's army fell into an ambush prepared for the North Carolina army. . . The whites were pressed into a circle by their foes and hence the battle was called the Ring Fight. . . On the arrival of the main army the Indians were charged on all sides and driven from their chosen position. . . Among the slain a number of Creek Indians were discovered. In this action Cols. Thomas Neal of York District, John Thomas of Spartanburg, John Lysle of Newberry and Thomas Sumter participated..."

Page 9—"In May, 1777, McJunkin received a Captain's commission and was ordered by Col. Thomas to perform a tour of duty on the frontiers. . . In the month of June, 1778, Capt. McJunkin was ordered to lead his company to Bacon's Bridge on Ashley River. . . prior to

the expedition to Bacon's the Spartan Regiment was divided and another regiment formed called the 2nd Spartan Regiment. Thomas Brandon was promoted to the command of this regiment and Capt. McJunkin was comprehended within its limits.

McJunkin marries Miss Ann Thomas. "On March 9, 1779, Capt. McJunkin was married to Miss Ann, second daughter of Col. John and Jane Thomas.

Col. John Thomas, Sr. "It may not be disagreeable to the reader to know something of Col. Thomas, the father-in-law of Major McJunkin. . . he occupied a prominent place in his own region of country during a considerable portion of the War of Independence and. . . is now almost unknown to those who enjoy the benefits of his skill, efforts and privations.

"Col. Thomas was a native of Wales, but brought up in Chester County, PA. He married Jane Black, a sister of the Rev. John Black of Carlisle, Pa., and the first President [sic] of Dickinson College. [NOTE: According to a March 20, 1967, letter to Ilene Jones Cornwell from Charles Coleman Sellers, librarian of Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, the Reverend John Black "was a Presbyterian minister of nearby Gettysburg. He was not our President, but one of the founding trustees, holding that office from 1783 to 1802."]

"A number of years before the war Mr. Thomas removed to South Carolina, resided for some time upon Fishing Creek. Before hostilities commenced with the mother country he was residing upon Fairforest Creek, in the lower part of what is now Spartanburg District. He was one of the founders of Fairforest Church, and his wife was one of its most zealous members. He was a militia Captain and a Magistrate under the Royal Government. He was industrious, intelligent, patriotic and highly distinguished for his devotion to the public welfare.

"Upon the refusal of Col. Fletchall to accept a commission under the authority of the Province, an election was held and John Thomas was chosen Colonel of the Spartan Regiment, having previously resigned the commissions that he had held under the Royal Government. He directed the movements of this regiment until Charleston fell, soon after which he was taken prisoner by a Tory Captain by the name of Sam Brown and confined at Ninety Six and in Charleston until near the close of the war. The said Brown carried off his Negroes and horses.

Page 10 continued—"Col. Thomas had four sons, two of whom watered the tree of liberty with their blood. Robert was killed at Roebuck's Defeat. Abraham was wounded and taken prisoner at Ninety Six and died in confinement. John [Jr.] succeeded his father in command of the Spartan Regiment and made his mark in many a well-fought battle. The other son [William] was a youth in time of the war. Col. Thomas had also four daughters. The husband of each was a Whig, and all held commissions in the war and rendered their country most substantial service in securing victory and freedom. The ladies of South Carolina were proverbial for being true to the cause of independence, but the zeal and fidelity of Mrs. Thomas and her daughters will compare favorably with the brightest of that bright galaxy that adorns the history of the State. Soon after the war closed Col. Thomas removed to Greenville District, where he resided until the time of his death.

Page 10 continued—"A Militant Family [re: ladies of the Thomas family]. In the early part of the war Gov. Rutledge had sent a quantity of arms and ammunition to the frontiers for the use of the Whigs. These were deposited at the house of Col. Thomas [on Fairforest Creek] and kept under the protection of a guard of twenty-five men. Col. Moore of North Carolina, with 300 Tories, was approaching to take possession of the magazine. Col. Thomas

deemed his force inadequate to a successful defense of the house and retired, the guard having taken off and concealed as much of the military stores as time permitted. Josiah Culbertson, a son-in-law of Col. Thomas, refused to leave the house. He had been brought up on the frontier and was a first rate marksman. With William Thomas, a youth, and the women of the family, he remained, and as soon as Moore and his party came within gunshot a fire was opened upon them from the house and maintained with such vigor that Moore and his party soon withdrew from the conflict and left them in peaceful possession of the premises. [Note: Also see *Carolina Gazette*, Charleston, SC, May 25, 1811, obituary of Jane Black Thomas, who died April 16, 1811, in which it was noted that during this conflict at the Thomas homeplace in 1779, when the Tories made a final assault upon the home, Jane "advanced in front of them, with a sword in her hand and dared them to come on. They were intimidated and retired."]

"Mrs. Thomas at Ninety Six. Some time after the fall of Charleston Mrs. Thomas was at Ninety Six on a visit to her husband and two of her sons [Abram and Robert] who were prisoners with the British at that post. While there she heard two women in conversation, and one remarked to the other: 'On to-morrow night the Loyalists intend to surprise the rebels at Cedar Spring.' This intelligence was interesting news to her, for the Cedar Spring was within a few miles of her house, and among the Whigs posted there were several of her own children. She therefore determined to apprise them of the attack, though the distance was at least fifty miles. The Whigs were informed of their danger in time to provide for their safety, which they did by withdrawing from their fires until the enemy rushed within their light in confidence of an easy victory. Instead, however, of butchering a slumbering foe, they received the well-directed blows of their intended victims, and on that night victory perched upon the standard of liberty. The Whigs were in number about sixty, the Loyalists 150. [Note: This was, according to accounts in various South Carolina histories, the third and last Battle of Cedar Spring.]

"When the news of the fall of Charleston [1780] reached the up-country [Page 11] the Whig population was greatly alarmed.

Page 11 continued—"Plan to Defend Their Homes. Cols. Thomas, Brandon and Lysle met on June 4 [1780] to concert measures for mutual safety and for the protection of the country comprehended with their several commands. They agreed to concentrate their troops and form a camp near Fairforest Creek, about four miles from the present site of Union, on the road to Adam's Ford on Tyger River. The present resident of Christopher Young is on the spot. As the place was near the centre of Brandon's command, his men first arrived on the ground. He had in his possession a part of the powder formerly entrusted to Col. Thomas, and as he considered its preservation of the greatest importance, he directed [seven men, including Joseph McJunkin] to conceal it with great care in the neighboring forests. . . . [After Brandon's defeat "on the 8th or 10th of June, 1780"] This powder was afterward carried off by stealth to the east side of Broad River and constituted the principal supply of Sumter's men at Huck's Defeat, Rocky Mount and Hanging Rock.

Page 12—"Whigs Almost Despair. On June 12 [1780] the refugees came together at the church [Bullock's Creek Church had been appointed as "a place of rendezvous"]. Among them were some of the regiments of Thomas, Lysle, Brandon, and a few refugees from Georgia. Their situation is talked over. The British are victorious, the Tories rising in large numbers and asserting their zeal for the royal cause; not a single corps of Whigs is known to be embodied in the State; the cause of liberty is desperate. The offers of British protection is before them. What is to be done? . . . At length a young man ['John Thomas, son of the Colonel of the same name'] calls his command together. He recites the facts connected with their present situation. . . . [and finally] He says: 'Our cause must now be determined. Shall we join the British or strive like men for the noble

end for which we have done and spent so much? Shall we declare ourselves cowards and traitors, or shall we fight for liberty as long as we have life? As for me, 'give me liberty or give me death!' The question was put [whether to fight or surrender to the British, and when asked who were in favor of fighting it out]. . . Every hat flew up, the air resounded with clapping of hands and shouts of defiance to the armies of Britain and the foes of freedom.

Page 18—"An Old Graveyard. From Union to Spartanburg Court House there are three public highways. The main route passes a considerable part of the way on the ridge between the Pacolet River and the Fairforest Creek; another of these ways crosses the latter stream [Fairforest Creek] a few miles west of Union and leads near a fashionable watering place known as Glenn's Spring. The third is an intermediate route and lies across the tributaries of the Fairforest until it intersects the main road at a place called the Rich Hill. Eleven miles from Union on this intermediate route you come to a small space enclosed with a substantial stone wall. A gateway through the northern wall affords an easy entrance. Over this space, perhaps near an acre, are dispersed a variety of tombstones. . . . Passing near the eastern wall you will find the name James McIllwaine [Note: Also spelled McElwayne ; John Thomas, Jr., married Margaret McElwayne c.1771 in 96th District, SC]. . . .

"Fairforest Presbyterian Church. In the year 1776 a plain but spacious log building stood on the eminence where the western square of the wall [of the graveyard] passes. A traveler whose eye was practiced in such matters would have said that it had been erected twelve years before. That house was then called Fairforest Church. Around it for miles dwelt those who were accustomed to worship at the place. Families of the following names constituted the congregation at that period: Mayer, McIllwaine, Patton, Kelso, Davidson, Strong, Means, Hodge, Park, Harris, Shaw, Kennedy, Barron, Harbison, Cunningham, Hayney, Faris, Crawford, Clowney, Denny, Thompson, Simpson, Foster, Armstrong, and Nesbit.

"An Exclamation Became a Name. The population of the whole country was sparse and mostly confined to the more fertile land bordering on the streams. About twenty-four years before the United States became a Nation the first party of white men found a home in this vicinity. Among them were George Storo and James McIllwaine. . . One of the [encamped] party, believed to have been James McIllwaine, looked abroad for a time over the rich scenery of the place and exclaimed: 'This is a fair forest!' The party immediately gave the name to the place and it soon fastened upon the principal stream in the vicinity, hence the northeastern branch of the Tyger River has been called since those days Fairforest Creek, a bold and beautiful stream which, rising in the vicinity of the mountains, sweeps through the central part of the present Districts of Spartanburg and Union.

Page 19 continued—"Early Church History. The party above mentioned was from Pennsylvania. They located lands upon the Fairforest Creek and settled where the line between Spartanburg and Union now crosses that stream. . . . When the Indian War commenced in 1760 the settlers retreated to the interior and some of them never returned. But most of them came back; a church was organized and gradually acquired strength until 1766. No written document shows the time of this organization, and tradition fails in the matter, but [it] probably took place in 1762.

Page 20---"New Church Building. About the year 1787 a new place of worship was erected a mile or two west [East? See following history of Fair Forest Church in Union, east of the confluence of Kelso / Kelsey's Creek and Fairforest Creek] of the place described and thus separating the place of worship from the place of interment for the congregation.

“British Come to the Piedmont. Soon after Charleston fell in May 1780 bodies of British troops were dispatched into different portions of the State to enforce the proclamations of Sir Henry Clinton and Lord Cornwallis. Among others, Col. Ferguson was sent on this enterprise. . .to compel the Whigs to take protection and to embody the Tories and to train them to war with a view to further conquests. . . [after harassing Whigs in Union District] Ferguson moved up into the Fairforest congregation, and seems to have made it his headquarters [from June] until about September.

Page 26—“The Various Cedar Spring Fights. . . The reader who has followed [the writer] through the whole of his narrative has noticed that he has described three conflicts at or near [Cedar Spring]. The first is contained in the account given of the Thomas family. This is stated upon the authority of Major McJunkin, and was probably the last in the order of time. The second occurred when Col. Clarke was retreating from Georgia with his regiment of refugee militia. . . The third took place between the forces of Clarke and Shelby combined, perhaps two weeks subsequent to the first.

“Major Joseph McJunkin, or Original Sketches of the Revolutionary History of South Carolina,” by the Reverend James Hodge Saye, based upon a manuscript by Major Joseph McJunkin, published in the Richmond, Virginia, *Watchman and Observer*, September 21, 1848.

Fair Forest Church

Page 1 (excerpt): “The district for Union County was first settled about 1755. . . Jonesville [named for Charles Jones, builder of Wayside Inn, c.1811, and appointed postmaster in 1828] is located in the heart of the Piedmont, in the northern part of Union County, on the Columbia and Asheville division of the Southern Railroad, nine miles north of Union and eighteen miles south of Spartanburg.” (Timeline on page 36: Union County was formed in 1785.)

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 11 – September 5, 2005 – Charleston, SC - The Charleston Museum will commemorate the 225th anniversary of the Siege of Charleston with a panel exhibit in the newly-renovated Education lobby. Featuring images of period maps and artwork, the exhibition will tell the story of one of the critical moments of the American Revolution. The Siege of Charleston was the longest formal siege of the American Revolution and the largest British military operation in South Carolina during the war. Visitors to the exhibit will see how British strategy brought their army and navy to the rebellious colony and how South Carolinians responded to the threat. A selection of artifacts relating to the siege will also be presented. Admission charged.

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*. <http://www.charlestonmuseum.org/event.asp?ID=54>

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

Page 16 (excerpt): “In April, 1906, the Presbytery of Enoree, by request of the churches, consolidated the churches of Fair Forest, Grindal Shoals, and Jonesville, the consolidated church to be called Fair Forest and to be located in Jonesville.

“The old Fair Forest Church was organized in 1755 [Jane Black Thomas, from a noted family of Presbyterian leaders in Pennsylvania, has been noted in various accounts as a founder of the first Fairforest Church on Fairforest Creek, Spartanburg County, SC; her husband, Col. John Thomas, Sr., was an Episcopalian, but he also was active in the Fairforest Church until the couple removed to Greenville County in 1785]. Rev. A. A. James served this church fifty-nine years, having followed Rev. James H. Gaye [Saye, 1808-1892], who served it for fourteen years [1845—1859; Saye became pastor of Fishing Creek Presbyterian Church, Chester County, SC in 1859. He was married in 1838 to Rebecca McJunkin, great-granddaughter of Col. John and Jane Black Thomas].

“At the death [June 3, 1910] of Rev. A. A. James, Rev. J. E. Coker became pastor and served nearly two years.

“The following pastors served this church: W. S. Porter, Charles Evans, W. G. Goble, R. M. White, Lewis Mettz, E. C. Clary, R. E. Ratchford, Robert Coon, L. G. Longenecker.”

History of Jonesville, by Jesse Calvert, III (Jonesville, SC: published by the author, 1970).

Ilene Jones Cornwell: 3-10-1993; amended 4-22-2005 with research by Leonard McCown, Irving, TX, 3-31-2005, and research by Polly B. Bennett, Spartanburg, SC, April 2005.

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May 13, 2005 - Charleston, SC - Grand British Ball at Charleston’s Old Exchange Building. 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. Music will be provided by the Charleston Chamber Orchestra. Dance caller will be John Millar of Colonial Williamsburg. 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

May 21, 2005 - Ninety Six, SC - Living History Saturdays - Living History volunteers (in period dress) show and acquire early American daily living skills.

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. For more information contact Laura Ledford, interpretive ranger at lledford@scprt.com or see www.southcarolinaparks.com/documents/midlands_4.pdf

May 28-29, 2005 – Lancaster, SC - 225th 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 3, 2005 – Charleston, SC - Piccolo Spoleto: 10:00 am – “General Nathaniel Greene: A Defining Moment in Colonial America” by Charles Price and Seabrook Wilkinson. This session of the literary festival explores the life and significance of General Nathaniel Greene as a cultural and military icon. Novelist Charles Price examines the literary contributions of this American hero. Greene's descendant Seabrook Wilkinson moderates. Questions answered include: Who was Nathaniel Greene? Why was he important and how did he help define Charles Town? Event sponsored by the Charleston Library Society, 164 King St. Annex. Tickets required and admission charged.
<http://www.piccolospoleto.com/events/default.aspx?progid=3&eventid=102> Ticket also includes an 18th century garden reception and refreshments at 4:30pm at the Old Powder Magazine, 79 Cumberland Street.

3:00 pm "Modern Perspectives on Nathaniel Greene from Two Historians, a Novelist, and a Descendant" by Carl Borick, David Reuwer, Charles Price, and Seabrook Wilkinson. This session of the literary festival deals with the climatic moment of Greene's life, the Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina. Novelist Charles Price, historians Carl Borick and David Reuwer and descendant Seabrook Wilkinson provide their unique perspectives on this event which ended British dominance of South Carolina. Afterwards, enjoy an 18th century garden reception and refreshments at 4:30pm at the Old Powder Magazine, 79 Cumberland Street. Event sponsored by the Charleston Library Society, 164 King St. Annex. Tickets required and admission charged.

<http://www.piccolospoleto.com/events/default.aspx?progid=3&eventid=102>

June 3, 2005 – Great Falls, SC Reception and Historical Drama at Republic Amphitheatre, Dearborn Street. Admission \$2.00 adults, \$1.00 children 6-12. For more information call 803-482-2370 or gassociation@infoave.net

June 4-5, 2005 - Beckhamville (Great Falls), SC - 225th Anniversary of the skirmish at Alexander's Old Field. Battle reenactments at 2 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Enjoy period music, dancing, colonial craftsmen, children's activities, sutlers shops and concessions. Sunday there will be a period church service. Admission \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 for children 6-12 and under 6 free.
<http://www.battleofbeckhamville.com/index.html>

June 11-12, 2005 – Lincolnton, NC - Battle of Ramseur's Mill 225th Anniversary event featuring free Bar-B-Que, and for campers, straw, wood, and water are available as well as choice camp sites. Events 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. June 11th will feature a parade through downtown Lincolnton that starts at 9:30 am [Anyone with patriotic flag can enter] followed by a presentation on "The Revolution in the Carolinas Backcountry" by SCAR Editor Charles B. Baxley and David P. Reuwer. For more information call Darrell Harkey, Lincolnton County Historical Coordinator, 704-736-8442 (w) or 704-732-1221 (h). 211 West Water Street, Lincolnton, NC 28092
hiscord@charter.net or wharkey@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 225th 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

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 3-4, 2005 - Cowpens National Battlefield Park, SC – weekend of events, performances by bands, noted actor Howard Burnham portrays South Carolina militia leader Gen. Thomas Sumter, interpretive walks and fireworks displays at night! Featured speaker David K. Wilson will discuss his new book, *The Southern Strategy – Britain's Conquest of South Carolina and Georgia, 1775 – 1780*, published this year by USC Press which covers the major Southern Campaign battles through May 1780 and then purports to explain why the British lost the war.
<http://www.nps.gov/cowp/events.htm>

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> registration at
<http://www.chmuseums.org/HB225hucks.htm>

July 9-10, 2005 – Brattonsville, SC - Battle of Huck's Defeat at Williamson's Plantation. Historic Brattonsville hosts a 225th 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.

July 16, 2005 - Spartanburg, SC - History will come to life on this air conditioned bus tour of five Revolutionary War battle sites in Spartanburg County: Cedar Springs, Gowen's Old Fort, Earle's Ford, Lawsons Fork, and Fort Prince. In July of 1780, these battles pushed the British Army from the foothills of South Carolina. Fee of \$35.00 includes lunch in historic Landrum. The tour, sponsored by Palmetto Conservation Foundation, will be lead by Military Heritage Preservationist, Dr. George Fields. Bus will leave at 10 am from the Spartanburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, located in the historic downtown train depot at 296 Magnolia Street, and return at 4 pm. The tour is limited to 54 persons. Call 846-948-9615 for reservations or register on website www.palmettoconservation.org

August 13, 2005 – Spartanburg, SC - Discover regional history in a new way on this air conditioned bus tour of Revolutionary War battle sites in the Spartan District: Wofford Iron Works Battlefield, Union County Museum, Fairforest Headquarters of Colonel Ferguson, Blackstock's Battlefield, and Musgrove Mill State Historic Site. In the summer and fall of 1780, these battles turned the tide of British power toward defeat later at Yorktown. Fee of \$35.00 includes lunch in historic Union. The tour, sponsored by Palmetto Conservation Foundation, will be lead by Military Heritage Preservationist, Dr. George Fields. Bus will leave at 10 am from the Spartanburg Convention and Visitors Bureau, located in the historic downtown train depot at 296 Magnolia Street, and return at 4 pm. The tour is limited to 54 persons. Call 846-948-9615 for reservations or register on website www.palmettoconservation.org

August 20-21, 2005 – Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site, Camden, SC - 225th 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 20th at 11:00 am and 3:00 pm. Shop at sulders row, attend a Patriot's funeral, courts-martial, round-table talk, period fashion show & dancing and children's activities. Admission charged. www.historic-camden.net and www.camden225th.org

August 20, 2005 – Musgrove's Mill State Historic Site, Clinton, SC - 225th 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 at 864-938-0100 brobson@scprt.com

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

September 15, 22, 29 and October 6, 2005 – Savannah History Museum - Battle of Savannah Lecture Series.

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, 2005 – 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 www.mickveisrael.org.

October 7-8, 2005 – Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC - 225th 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. 11:00 am wreath laying ceremony. 3:00 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 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 on October 7, 1780. One of the most famous battles of the Southern campaign, this Patriot victory has 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 225th Anniversary events, contact Jeannie Marion, CHM Director of Marketing and Public Information, at 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>

December 17, 2005 – Clinton, SC – Musgroves Mill State Historical Site – 2:00 pm - Sam Fore (SCAR contributor) special collections librarian at the John D. Rockefeller Library of Williamsburg, Virginia will present a paper on South Carolina Patriot Lt. Col. James McCall of the Long Cane settlement, commander of the SC State Dragoons. McCall fought at Ninety Six in 1776, the Cherokee battles, Kettle Creek, Musgroves Mill, the siege of Augusta, Fish Dam Ford, Blackstock's Plantation, Long Cane, with Lt. Col. William Washington at the Battle of Hammond's Store, Cowpens, Wetzels Mill, and at Beattie's Mill. He died of small pox contracted during the campaign. Small admission. For additional information call Brian Robson at 864-938-0100 or email brobson@scprt.com ★

Pension Application of Levi Mote

Transcribed and Annotated by William T. Graves

[Introductory Note: Levi Mote filed three applications for a pension under the Pension Act of 1832. All three are presented here because all three differ somewhat in their content and focus. Also, each statement sheds some interesting light on the process of obtaining a pension. The statements made by Mote in support of his application do not follow any chronological order. Mote himself states that because of his advanced age (he was either 83 or 86 when he made his first application in 1840), he could not recall the sequence of his tours of service. Because he does not present the events chronologically, the reader might be inclined to dismiss his affidavits as being fabrications of an old man in his dotage aggrandizing his accomplishments. In my opinion, that would be a mistake. Though confusing, the affidavits provide references to people, events and places that confirm, supplement or complement statements made by others or offer potential clues to people, events or places that warrant further exploration.]

Declaration in Order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress Passed June 7th 1832

State of Georgia
Habersham Co.

On the Twenty Second day of October one thousand Eight hundred and forty personally appeared before me Gabriel Sisk a Judge of the Inferior Court in the State and County above written Levi Mote a resident of Mossey Creek in the County of Habersham and State of Georgia aged Eighty four years according to the best information. The record of his age is destroyed. Who being duly Sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following Declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the Service of United States Under the following named officers and Served as herein Stated: He volunteered as a private in the Militia Service of the United States for six months (in the year Seventeen hundred and Seventy Six the month and day he can not recollect from old age and the Consequent loss of memory) under Capt. Robt. McAfee¹ in a Regiment

Commanded by Col. Neal² and Major Francis Ross,³ they marched to Camden then to Ninety Six and then back to Camden and their time expired and was discharged. He resided in South Carolina York County when he first entered the Service; he was drafted Shortly after that and Served a three month tour under the above named officers and marched to Enoree River in Greenville South Carolina and then to York County and was discharged. He was again Drafted and served six months under Captain Thomas Jenkins⁴ guarding the line on the frontier of South Carolina and was in Various Scouts after the Indians and was discharged at the expiration of the tour by Capt. Jenkins and Shortly after went to North Carolina Burke County and met with Col. Shelby⁵ at the Turkey Cove in Said County; coming on from Tennessee⁶ and Voluntarily joined his Regiment and went on with him was in the Battle of Ramsours Mills⁷ and the next day was detached to Guard Some Prisoners and was attacked at Col. Bratons⁸ By a party of British and taken prisoner and kept two weeks and Then Broke Custody and the third or fourth day after joined Col. Shelby and Col. Sevier⁹ and marched with them to Musgroves Mills¹⁰ and was in that Battle and at the expiration of three months was Discharged. Then went back to York County, South Carolina. Then was drafted again and Served six months as a Ranger and Indian Spy under Capt. Jenkins and Major Ross, and was discharged; and remained at and near for Lindley twelve months, where Genl. Williamson Commanded during which time he frequently went with Scouting parties and Spying.¹¹ He then removed to State of Georgia. There Volunteered Under Captain Danley¹² and Served as a ranger and was in the Battle with the Indians near Shoulderbone¹³ where Major Ross was mortally wounded and Served Six months and was discharged and then remained at and near Fort Martin¹⁴ near Ogeechee two years during which time he was drafted and served a six months tour under Capt. Danley and Col. Benjamin Few¹⁵ and was discharged. He States that He has no Documentary evidence, and that he knows of no person whose testimony he can procure that can testify to his Services; Therefore he has no other means of establishing his Claim only by his own oath; and that through bodily infirmity he Cannot attend the Court of Record.

The following are his Reasons for not making an earlier application. He was informed that he Could not establish his Claim without witnesses and having Sought in Vain for proof till the infirmities of age deprived him of the power of attending the Court— But being lately informed that the Could establish his Claim by his own oath and Submit to make his declaration before a Justice or judge he has made the attempt thus late.

He answers to the interrogatories prescribed by the War Department as follows: 1st He born in North Carolina in the year 1756 according the best information. 2^d. The record of his age is destroyed. 3^d He was living in York County South Carolina. After the War he moved to Humphers (sic) County State of Tennessee then moved to Georgia Franklin County then to Habersham County, Ga.

where he now resides. 4th He Volunteered the first tour then was drafted the next Drafted again, Volunteered then Drafted then Volunteered and then Drafted. 5th he cannot recollect the names of any more of the officers than those named in the Body of the declaration. 6th His discharges were all handed by the Capt. under who he Served the tour. His discharges are all lost. 7th James Quillian, Elisha England, Hugh Ferguson and many others.

The whole of his service was performed as a private for which He claims a pension. He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any State. Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ Levy "X (his mark)" Mote

S/ Gabriel Sisk, JIC

We James Quillian, a clergyman residing in the neighborhood of Mossey Creek State of Georgia Habersham County and Elisha England residing in the Same hereby Certify that we are well acquainted with Levi Mote who had Subscribed and Sworn to the above declaration: that we believe him to be Eighty four years of age; that he is reputed and believed in the neighborhood where he resides to have been a Soldier of the Revolution, and that we concur in that opinion. Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year aforesaid.

S/ James Quillian

S/ Elisha England

S/ Gabriel Sisk, JIC

**Revolutionary War Pension: Levi Mote- Lumpkin County, Georgia
Pension File #S7245**

Affidavit of Levi Mote in Support of his application for pension for Revolutionary War Service:

State of Georgia
County of Lumpkin

Be it remembered that on this 24th day of June 1846 before me Milton H. Gathright, one of the Justices of the Inferior Court of said county personally appeared Levi Mote of said County who is known to me a creditable witness and made oath in due form of law. That he is the Son of William Mote (late of Georgia) that he was born in North Carolina on Jones Creek. That his father moved to Chester District (SC) and before the Revolutionary War to York District (SC) where he was living when that War broke out. That this deponent has no record of his age but calls himself ninety-three years of age the 19th day of April last past.¹⁶ That when the Revolution broke out this deponent, in the early part of the fall Season (when the orchards were full of fruit the dates not recollected), volunteered under Capt. Robert McAfee & Col. Polk,¹⁷ that he first attached himself to said McAfee's Company at the Captain's usual muster Grounds about 12 miles from Yorktown¹⁸ in York District South Carolina, that said Capt. enrolled his Company and gave orders for his men to go home and fix themselves mounted on horses and to meet in Two weeks at Gen'l Williamson's house on Bush River Union District (SC) that this deponent accordingly met his Company at Gen'l Williamson's.¹⁹ There were about 40 Privates in said McAfee's Co. Charles Morgan was our First Lieut. There were Several other Companies met at Gen'l Williamson's with our Maj. Frank Ross and Col. Polk that they all remained at Gen'l Williamson's for some days when we were ordered to march for Augusta Georgia under command of Maj. Frank Ross. The whole of Each Company did not go, there was a draft held amongst the Companies and about six hundred men drafted out of Gen'l Williamson's command, to reinforce Col. (Benj) Few and Col. John Twiggs²⁰ at Augusta Georgia that we marched to Augusta. A few days after we arrived at Augusta Col. Few ordered Maj. Ross to take his Command from (SC) and to go out and intercept Col. Tate²¹ (a Tory) that was said to be out with a large body of Indians. That

Maj. Ross accordingly marched out into the forest on the 2nd or 3rd day from Augusta in the afternoon we met Col. Tate with a Company of Tories (and as it was said 500 Indians) that we met them on Beach Creek on the East Side of Rock Comfort River, that here we had a fight with them which lasted 2 or 3 hours in which Maj. Ross was mortally Wounded, that after a Strong Stand on the part of the Enemy they retreated and we charged upon them till they crossed the Ogeechee River about 6 miles from the battle ground we then returned to Augusta, had about 30 men killed and wounded. We carried Maj. Ross back to Augusta where he died of his wounds about 5 days after the battle. That we remained at Augusta & scouting after Indians and Tories till our six months tour was up and we returned home to York District (SC). This term of service was some years before the British took Augusta.

That this deponent remained at home for some eight or nine months when a Draft was held and he was drafted for Three Months under Capt. McAfee to make what was called a Regiment of Rangers Stationed at Gilbert Town (NC).²² Our duty was to scout the Country from Gilbert Town to Earle's Fort²³ on the head of Tiger River (S.C.). Gen'l Williamson was often at our fort at Gilbert Town and was our head officer to the best knowledge of this deponent, that he continued in service these three months mounted on his own horse, did much scouting but was not in any battles. After this term of Service deponent remained at his father's in York District. Captain McAfee threw up his Command (of his Company) and a Capt. Thomas Jenkins²⁴ from (NC) who had been a Capt. before was appointed to the Command of our Company, under him we did considerable scouting against the Tories. We were only bound (for about a year at this interval) to Military Service only by scouting parties when there were any Tories in the County or Vicinity but was actually in Arms one half of the time. Our Capt. Jenkins was a very Vigilant Officer and kept us always ready for duty and often on the Scout when we were not mustered into Service during this term of what we called home service.

I recollect well of hearing of Gates defeat.²⁵

On reflection I well remember of being Drafted and mustered under Lt. Morgan to Lindly's Fort was stationed at this fort for Eight Months. Gen'l Williamson Commanded and Staid in the fort himself Except when he marched with us in pursuit of Indians.²⁶ That Gen'l Williamson took about 800 men deponent was one of that number Marched into the Indian Country we first went to where the Indians had murdered Col. Hites family in the upper end of Spartanburg District (SC) from there we marched to Parris' the Indian agent.²⁷ Gen'l Williamson took his [Parris'] family and Sent them in to Lindly's Fort under a guard that he then burnt All his buildings & saw & grist mill, Cut down his Corn which was then fit for roasting, thence we marched to Tennessee River, Georgia, Hiwassee River & to Chattooga River (SC) that we destroyed the Indian's Towns on these Rivers, Corn etc., we, a part of the time above mentioned, was at Earle's Fort when Scouting there on the head Waters of Tiger River & Lindly's Fort was on the Enoree River.²⁸ This Scout lasted about six weeks. One Benj. Rice was our Pilot, from this tour I returned home and done much detached duty under Capt. Jenkins who had a great reputation of finding what he called Tory nests. That after the British had taken Charleston SC & Augusta (Georgia) that Col. Dunn²⁹ Came along with about 300 men from Georgia & (SC). This deponent then understood that Geo & SC Soldiers must leave the state or take protection under the British. That he then joined Capt. James Daniel's Company under Col. Dunn and Marched over the Mountains into Tennessee that he remained there in Tennessee for some months. That from Tennessee Col. John Sevier, Col. Shelby & Col. Dunn All United their force. Deponent still continued with Capt. James Daniel's Company that they marched upon Capt. or as he was called Col. Moore³⁰ at Ramsour's Mills on the South Fork of Catawba River.³¹ That here we had a fight with Moore and drove many of his men into the mill pond some of them made their escape

to a British Officer by the name of Turnbull.³² After this battle we marched (or the Georgia Troops did) to Augusta, Georgia Col. Elijah Clark and Dunn. Deponent continued in Capt. Daniel's Co. That we attacked Brown³³ at Augusta we used to call old Col. Brown (Tory) old Burnt foot (as the Whigs had once caught him and set him a fire after treating him to a Coat of Tar and Feathers). That the British came from Cambridge (Ninety Six) and fired their Cannon of grape shot across the River at us. After we were driven from Augusta this Deponent Continued with Col. Dunn & Capt. Daniel continually in Service Ranging for about one year in Georgia Against the Tories that Cunningham,³⁴ McGirt³⁵ and Gray used to come up from Savannah & Midway and gather Stores for the British from Georgia and our principal duty was to watch them and prevent them from Stealing Cattle & Burning houses &c. That after Serving for upwards of one year I then joined Capt. John Hill & Col. Jackson³⁶ and Served with them till the close of the War Stationed at Fort Martin and protecting the frontiers of the Ogeechee River. Captain Hill Commanded Ft. Martin and Capt. Alexander³⁷ Commanded Ft. Alexander³⁸ about 4 miles above us here at this Fort I served Two years & from Spring of the year till Fall. That a muster was ordered at Philips Old field at the ridge between Broad & Little River about Twenty Miles from our Fort (Martin). That we were ordered (a whole regiment of us) after forming a line to give a running fire then, we were all marched around a man by the name of Acock (his title not recollected); Stood up in his saddle and read a Proclamation of Peace which was the first we knew of it. That as soon as his voice could be heard after reading the declaration (for shouting) he cried a loud in these words "Boys you are all discharged to go where you please." This was all the discharge this deponent ever had. That he never had a written discharge from any Campaign he ever served nor never was paid for any Service by his county. That I served as a Private Soldier all the time (being unlearned I refused any promotion). I went twice during my Service as a Substitute, once for John Copeland, about one month and once for George Wilson - about six weeks. I received Soon after the war closed from the State of Georgia a Ticket for 200 acres of bounty Lands. That the ticket was not the Land warrant but was a ticket showing that he should be entitled to his land when the Land Office should be open for that purpose. That he sold his ticket to Col. Robert Middleton of Georgia for 72 pounds, 10 shillings English Currency paid in a horse. That Some years after Col. Middleton Sent to (SC) to get rights to the land drawn on his ticket. That his deponent made his Declaration for to procure a pension from the U. States on account of his Military Services rendered in the War of the Revolution according to Act of Congress of June 7th 1832; that his papers were made out by Bryan & one John Sanford of Habersham County, some Six or Seven years since, that they told him he could not get it because he could not tell them of no living witness whereby he could prove his service by and he knew of none, and that he now declares he knows of no living witness whereby he can prove any part of his service by that he is very poor and almost entirely helpless.

That by reason of old age and consequently loss of memory he cannot tell the dates of his service, that he had no Education and never kept the run of time by the year, that he cannot tell the year he was born, but knows he was old enough to be drafted the year after the Revolutionary War commenced, that he does not know the year when the Revolutionary War began or ended by his own knowledge, although he can remember events well yet by his having never made a practice of keeping the year, he cannot remember dates. That he does most positively declare he was bound to the military service of the United States fully Four years, and that he did detached duty for two years longer and for such services he claims a pension. That his name has never been on any Pension Roll of the U. States & that he has never received a Pension. That he relinquishes every Claim to a Pension Except the present. That since the close of the Revolution he continued to live in Georgia for about one year. That he then returned to York District (SC) where he lived for about 5 years when he married Mary Qualls in York District his present wife who is still

living. That he moved to Pennylton (sic, Pendleton) District about 2 years thence to Buck River, Tennessee, thence to Franklin Co. Geo, thence to Habersham County, Georgia About 25 years since, and to Lumpkin County, Geo some two years ago where he now resides. That he would refer to anyone with whom he has ever been acquainted to testify as to his character for truth and veracity.

That he had five Brothers in the Revolution, all of whom were true Whigs to this Country and served many years in the Same. The oldest Daniel Mote moved to the West. William Mote moved to Tennessee. Silas Mote died in Georgia. Simeon Mote died at Tellico River, Tenn. The three last mentioned Served with this deponent at Fort Martin, Georgia for their Service two years, they rec'd bounty Lands from the State of Georgia. That he appoints C. H. Blood of Tallahassee, Florida his true lawful agent and attorney to prosecute his claim for a pension and to collect the same from the Govt of the United States.

S/ Levi "X" Mote (his mark)

Sworn to and Subscribed the day and year first above mentioned before me M. H. Gathright. Witness S/ W. M. Varnum

State of Georgia Lumpkin County. I, Milton H. Gathright, one of the Judges of the Inferior Court of said County, it being a court of record, do hereby certify that Levi Mote, who has sworn to and subscribed the foregoing declaration before me, on the twenty fourth day of June eighteen hundred and forty six, is of great age and very feeble, and owing to his infirmity he cannot, in my opinion, with propriety and safety in his present condition attend in person a session of the said court. That his declaration was completely read over to him before swearing and subscribing thereto, and I believe, indeed I have no doubt, his statement is entitled to full credit, nor do I doubt the correctness of his statement as to his age. He appears to be a very poor and almost destitute of the common comforts and necessities of life -- that he positively declares he was bound to military service of the United States for the space of four years in the War of the Revolution. That he has seen officers of the regular Army, but cannot now, from the great lapse of time, feebleness of health body and mind, remember their names. I am of the opinion he is entitled to a pension. Given under my hand and private seal, there being no seal of office, this 17th day of September, 1846.

S/ Milton H. Gathright, J.I.C.

-----Levi was granted a pension of \$40 per annum to commence on the 4th day of March, 1831. Certificate of Pension issued the 28th day of June 1850.

[Various certificates supporting the character of deponent are attached]

State of Georgia
Lumpkin County

Be it remembered that on this 2nd day of July 1847 before me Samuel Eaton a Justice of the Peace in & for the said County personally appeared Levi Moate of Said County & made oath in due form of law that he was a Revolutionary Soldier and served from over five years in said war that the applied for a Pension some eight years ago made an affidavit in Habbersham County and employed two men by the name of Sanford & Bryson to manage the business form him. Some time last year I made a very full statement which was taken down by C. H. Blood of Florida before Judge Gathright in this County I then went into all the particulars of my service as plainly as it was possible to recollect after the lapse of so many years, it is impossible for me to give dates or even to be sure which I served under first in every case. I am now informed that the War Department wishes me to state my services again. I will name some of the events also the men under whom I served Viz first Officers were Capt. Robert McAfee Maj. Frank Ross & Genl. Williamson. I was drafted

and marched under the said Captain McAfee with two of my brothers, Silas and Simeon who were also drafted, to Genl. Williamson's headquarters where we met several companies. A number of men from each Company was drawn of which I was one and sent under Maj. Frank Ross to reinforce Augusta Ga. After having been there some time news arrived that a large body of Indians & Tories commanded by Col. Tate were committing depredations on the frontier settlements against whom Maj. Ross with several hundred men of whom I was one was ordered to march. We met them after a march of three days on Rocky Comfort Creek where we engaged them in battle and defeated them. In this battle Maj. Ross was mortally wounded. We carried him back to Augusta where he died a few days thereafter. Having remained at Augusta some time we marched back to General Williamson's headquarters under whom I remained nearly all the time during the next year and was stationed a part of the time at Lindleys Fort on Enoree River. After having served under Capt. Jenkins who had been elected in Capt. McAfee's stead and General Williamson on the Tennessee, Hiwassee & Chattooga Rivers & destroyed the Indian Towns and Corn fields on those Rivers we returned to General Williamson's headquarters at Fort Lindley on the Enoree River. The British forces having overrun the Country and a proclamation issued by the British Officer that those who did not take protection under the British Government would be punished, I went to North Carolina to what is now called East Tennessee and remained there some months. I then joined Capt. Daniel's Company under Col. Dunn who were returning to Georgia. After a march of several days, we met and joined Cols. Sevier and Shelby who were on their march to oppose Col. Ferguson³⁹ during this march I got so near my Father's that I went home after clothes of which I was almost entirely destitute during this furlough for a few days Cols. Campbell and Williams joined Sevier & Shelby and marched towards Kings Mountain to oppose Col. Ferguson and during my furlough engaged him in battle on said mountain. After the expiration of my furlough I again joined Capt. Daniel & marched to Georgia and remained under him for several months. I then joined Captain John Hill who was commander at Fort Martin on the Ogeechee River and remained under him until the close of the War which was more than two years thereafter. While stationed at this we were frequently engaged in scouting but said Fort was our quarters until the close of the war when we with many companies were ordered to Philips old field some twenty miles distant. After forming a circle, a man by the name of Aycock read the Declaration of Peace as it was called and then said to us you are discharged and at liberty to go where you please. I cannot after the lapse of so many years recollect dates nor the precise chain of events but I do know and declare that I served my Country faithfully as a soldier from the time I first entered the Service until the close of the War which was over five years. I have never applied for any pay from North or South Carolina. I remained in Georgia for some time after the close of the War and did not apply for pay for my services in those States. All that I got fro services was a horse of Col. Middleton for bounty lands in Georgia. I was old enough at the commencement of the War and was out all business except (sic, except) Soldiering for my Country after I went to Augusta with Maj. Ross as aforesaid until the close of the War.

S/ Levi "X his mark" Moate

Attest:

S/W. M. Varnum

Sworn to and subscribed before me this the 2nd day of July 1847.

S/ Samuel Eaton, Justice of the Peace

Endnotes:

¹ Robert McAfee is listed as having served as a captain under Col. Thomas Neel. Bobby Gilmer Moss, *Roster of South Carolina Patriots in the American Revolution*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 1983, p. 591.

² Colonel Thomas Neel (1730-1779) commanded a regiment raised in the New Acquisition in 1776. His regiment participated in the Snow Campaign. He is said to have been killed in the battle at Stono Ferry in June 1779. Moss, *Patriots*, p. 719. [Note: there are inconsistencies in Dr. Moss' entry for Col. Neel in that Moss states that Neel was under Thomas Sumter in 1781 and that Neel was killed at the battle of Stono. Since the battle at Stono occurred in June 1779, Neel could not have served with Sumter in 1781 if he died at Stono in 1779.]

³ Francis Ross (1744-1779) served as a captain under Col. Thomas Neel on the Cherokee Expedition in the summer of 1776. Moss, *Roster*, p. 831. In the spring of 1779, Ross was wounded in a skirmish with the Cherokees and died from his wounds on March 31, 1779. William A. Graham. *General Joseph Graham and His Papers on North Carolina Revolutionary History*, Raleigh: 1904.

⁴ Moss, *Patriots*, p. 498.

⁵ Isaac Shelby (1750-1826) Patriot militia officer. He was the first Governor of the State of Kentucky, being elected in 1792. Mark M. Boatner, III, *Encyclopedia of the American Revolution*, Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA., 1994, p. 1001.

⁶ The State of Tennessee was not formed until after the Revolutionary War. At the time covered by this pension affidavit, the area from which Shelby came was in part of western North Carolina.

⁷ The battle at Ramseur's Mill occurred on June 20, 1780. There is no record of Col. Shelby or his men participating in this battle. There were, however, troops from Burke County, North Carolina at this battle under the command of Major Joseph McDowell. Patrick O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter: The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas: Volume Two 1780*, Blue House Tavern Press, NP, 2004, p.180-187.

⁸ This reference is probably to Colonel William Bratton (1743-1815), a South Carolina militia colonel and the commander of the forces in the engagement at Williamson's Plantation (also known as the Battle of Brattonsville and Huck's Defeat). Moss, *Patriots*, p. 96.

⁹ Colonel John Sevier (1745-1815) Patriot militia officer. He was the first Governor of the State of Tennessee. Boatner, *Encyclopedia*, p. 997.

¹⁰ The Battle of Musgrove's Mill occurred either on the 18th or 19th of August, 1780. The Whig militia units which participated in it were commanded by Shelby, Colonel Elijah Clarke [(1733-1799), commander of Whig militia forces from Georgia] and Colonel James Williams [(1740-1780), commander of the Little River Regiment of Whig militia in South Carolina.] O'Kelley, *Blood and Slaughter: 1780*, pp. 286-292.

¹¹ Mote is clearly confused as to the sequence of events. Williamson, along with Andrew Pickens, LeRoy Hammond and other prominent Whig militia leaders, took parole from the British in June 1780, after the fall of Charleston and the British invasion and occupation of the backcountry. Fort Lindley [located in Laurens County, SC] to which Mote refers played its most prominent role in the Revolution during the first Battle of Ninety Six in late 1775 when some Cherokee Indians and Tories disguised as Indians attacked Whig militia under the command of Col. James Williams and Captain Jonathan Downs. Patrick O'Kelley, *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter: The Revolutionary War in the Carolinas, Volume One: 1771-1779*, Booklocker.com, 2004, pp. 149-151.

¹² This may be a reference to Col. John Dooley of Wilkes County, Georgia who commanded troops at the Battle of Kettle Creek, Georgia in February 1779.

¹³ This may be a reference to either the Shoulderbone Indian mounds of the Oconee Indians or to Shoulderbone Creek, both located in present day Hancock County, Georgia. Also, there is a Shoulderbone River located in Stephens County, Georgia.

¹⁴ Posted on the Internet website at <http://www.angelfire.com/wi2/familytree/Gru001.html> is the following transcript of a document verifying service at Fort Martin of Mote and his brothers:

A Pay Roll of Captain John Hill Company of Militia at Fort Martin Commanded by Col. Elijah Clark of Wilkes County. Duty done at sd. Garrison

four months commences first of May to last of August 1782.

Capt. John Hill, Lieut. Stephen Bishop, 2nd. Lieut. Joseph Mims, Sergt. John Whatley, Sergt. Francis Grubbs, Sergt. Joshua Hill, The following men were Pvts: Edward Hill, Malichi Wilder, James Davis, Henry Castleberry, John May, Joseph May, Martin Mims, Joseph Cobb, John Mims, William Bishop, Samson Wilder, Richard Barfield, Ezekiel Cobb, Thomas Branham, Moses Powell, Silas Motes, Simeon Motes, Levi Motes, William Motes, William Brooks, John Castleberry, Joab Brooks, William Kelley, Thomas Kelley, Drury Mims, John Kelley, William Donoho.

Proved before me /S/ James Bowie J.P.

[REVERSE] I do Certify that

the within duty was performed by sd.

Capt. John Hill. S/Elijah Clark Col.

According to the information posted on this website, Fort Martin was probably located in what was then Wilkes County, Georgia, in present day Warren County, Georgia.

¹⁵ Benjamin Few (1744-1805) was a Georgia Whig militia officer.

¹⁶ This statement of his age is inconsistent with his statement in 1840 in which he said he was 84 years old. Based on these two inconsistent statements, Mote appears to have been born in either 1753 or 1756.

¹⁷ The reference to Col. Polk appears to be an error. Robert McAfee served under Col. Thomas Neel. See endnotes 1 and 2 above.

¹⁸ This reference is probably to Yorkville (now simply York, SC).

¹⁹ Andrew Williamson (c. 1730-1786) was the commanding officer of the South Carolina backcountry militia from the commencement of the war until he took parole from the British in June 1780 following the fall of Charleston. Mote's statement that Williamson's plantation was on Bush River in Union County, South Carolina, is incorrect. Williamson's plantation, which he called "White Hall," was located on Hard Labor Creek in Ninety Six District (modern day Abbeville and Edgefield Counties).

²⁰ Gen. John Twiggs (1750-1816), born in Maryland, resident of Burke County, Georgia, a leader in the Revolution and against the Indians. Twiggs County, Georgia, is named for him.

²¹ This probably refers to David Taitt, one of John Stuart's deputy Indian agents. Taitt and Alexander McGillivray organized a Creek Indian war party to march to support Lt. Col. Archibald Campbell during his campaign into the Georgia backcountry in 1779.

Campbell marched on Augusta after taking Savannah as part of the implementation of the initial stages of Sir Henry Clinton's southern strategy. See, Edwin J. Cashin's review of Amos J. Wright Jr, *The McGillivray and McIntosh Traders on the Old Southwest Frontier, 1716-1815*, Montgomery: New South Books, 2000 at

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa3880/is_200201/ai_n9045530#continue.

²² Present day Rutherfordton, North Carolina.

²³ According to J. B. O. Landum, Earle's Fort was constructed by John Earle prior to the Revolution on the North Pacolet River two miles north of the line dividing the Carolinas in present day Polk County, North Carolina. J. B. O. Landrum, *History of Spartanburg County*, Spartanburg, SC: The Spartanburg Journal, 1954. Reprint edition. Patrick O'Kelley on the other hand places the fort in South Carolina. O'Kelley, *Blood and Slaughter: 1771-1779*, pp. 102-3.

²⁴ This may be the Thomas Jenkins listed in Moss, *Patriots*, p. 498, as being commissioned a militia captain in 1776.

²⁵ This is a reference to the Battle of Camden, August 16, 1780.

²⁶ Since Williamson took parole in June 1780 and did not re-entered active service thereafter, the service Mote describes could only have occurred sometime prior to that date. The only recorded skirmish to occur at Lindley's Fort took place on July 15, 1776, and was followed by Williamson's march into the backcountry to attack the Cherokee Indian town. O'Kelley, *Blood and Slaughter: 1771-1779*, pp. 149-

169. The campaign against the Cherokees began in July 1776 and ended in late October or early November 1776.

²⁷ This is probably a reference to Captain Richard Pearis (c 1725-1794), an ardent Tory militia leader and friend of the Cherokee Indians whose house on Reedy River in South Carolina was burned by Whig militia in 1776.

²⁸ Fort Lindley was actually located near Rabon Creek in present day Laurens County, South Carolina.

²⁹ This may be a reference to Col. Josiah Dunn of Georgia. Leslie Hall, *Land and Allegiance in Revolutionary Georgia*, University of Georgia Press, Athens, 2001.

³⁰ This is probably a reference to the North Carolina Tory militia leader, John Moore.

³¹ See endnote 7 above.

³² Lt. Col. George Turnbull was a Tory militia officer who commanded a battalion of De Lancey's New York Volunteers. Turnbull was in command of the forces that successfully defended Rocky Mount from the attack mounted by Gen. Thomas Sumter in August 1780. Boatner, *Encyclopedia*, p. 1129.

³³ Thomas Brown (1750-1825) was a Tory militia leader from Georgia. Edward J. Cashin, *The King's Ranger: Thomas Brown and the American Revolution on the Southern Frontier*, University of Georgia Press, Athens, 1989.

³⁴ This is probably a reference to Robert Cunningham (1739-1813), an early Tory militia leader who, following the fall of Charleston 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. See Phil Norfleet's biographical sketch of Robert Cunningham at http://sc_tories.tripod.com/robert_cunningham1.htm.

³⁵ Daniel McGirth was a notorious Tory militia leader. Born in South Carolina, he lived in Georgia and Florida during the Revolution and participated in many raids into South Carolina and Georgia in support of the Crown. Hall, *Land and Allegiance*, pp. 150-154.

³⁶ Colonel James Jackson was the commanding officer of the Georgia State Legion formed on August 21, 1781. Hall, *Land and Allegiance*, pp. 122-126.

³⁷ This is probably a reference to Captain Samuel Alexander (1757-1817), a captain in the regiment of Georgia troops commanded by Col. Elijah Clarke.

³⁸ Fort Alexander was located at the mouth of Richland Creek in Greene County, Georgia.

http://www.inheritage.org/almanack/c_greene.html.

³⁹ Patrick Ferguson (1744-1780) was the commanding officer of the Tory militia units defeated at the Battle of King's Mountain on October 7, 1780. Ferguson was a commissioned officer of the British Army and was the only member of the regular army present at the battle. All of the other participants were American Whigs or Tories militia members. ★



Site of Andrew Picken's August 11, 1776 "Ring Fight".

CHARLES TOWN May 1780 - May 2005

David P. Reuwer, photography & reporting

“Let not this dampening picture incline us to despondency,” wrote Henry Laurens on May 14, 1780 to the South Carolina delegates in the Continental Congress. “But impel us to act with more wisdom more vigor for the relief of our unhappy fellow Citizens, the recovery of our Country & the establishment of our Independence.” Charleston actually surrendered on Friday, May 12. This 225th anniversary was marked on May 12 – May 15 by a living history encampment replete with army and navy reenactors, living historians, sutlers and merchants, authors and artists, guides, site friends, buffs, and spectators. These participants paid consistently high complements to the event organizers and sponsors with kudos such as: well-organized, friendly and helpful volunteers, and very first-rate. The rain did not dampen the experience.

Paul Cirocco, with the 64th British Brigade (recently of Detroit), excitedly likened the reenacting professionalism and enthusiasm to a “continuation of playing cowboys as children but with real guns, more people than on your block, and you don’t have to come in after dark.” He said that some of these guys are third generation hobbyists, having started in the mid- 1970s. The 64th has, for example, 80+ some troops all told with men from NC, MI, OH, MA, NY, VA, and other states. Today there are more women and the sport involves much greater researching of historical detail, material authenticity, and engaging live drama.

Mike Cecere, 7th VA reports:

My band of the 7th Virginia arrived Thursday night at Magnolia Gardens and spent a very pleasant day Friday touring Charleston and Fort Moultrie. We didn’t see much of the site until we returned from our tour, at which time we walked over to the British camp and sutlers. Right off the bat I liked what I saw. I’ve always preferred to have camps that are separated (preferably out of sight of each other).



It’s not that I don’t want to socialize with my Crown friends, it’s just that separate camps add to my own experience. It makes the event seem a bit more “real”. Since the two camps were on two different sites, (Drayton Hall and Magnolia Gardens) connected by a 600 yard wooded path, there was plenty of separation. This allowed each side to send out patrols and strike the other, which also meant that the sentries that we posted actually had something to guard against. We returned to the American camp at sundown where the usual set up activity was underway. More of the 7th arrived, while others attended the British Ball (which I am told was outstanding). I prepared our cooking spot in one of the four camp kitchens that were constructed and relaxed, excited about the next day.

Saturday dawned overcast with a tinge of humidity. We assembled on the parade at 9:00 am, submitted morning reports, and made more than the usual effort to function like an army. We marched out of camp and conducted some battalion drill as well as company drill. The 7th Virginia numbered 10 muskets and a captain and was brigaded with five members of the 1st Maryland Regt. Southern Campaign. Captain Deane of the 7th VA commanded the company and Lt. Col. Blevins of the 2nd NC commanded the Continental battalion. After drill there were sentries to post and fatigue duty to conduct, then some liberty to visit the sutlers, (about 12 of them), so I did plenty of shopping. On our way to the sutlers we passed a Crown detachment who attacked the American camp. I do not know the details of the skirmish, but the shooting could be heard on sutlers row.

Saturday Battle: We formed early in the afternoon and marched through the woods to the battlefield. The commanders positioned the units and we waited. Soon, the sound of gunfire was plainly heard. Our advance detachments then emerged from the woods, followed by the enemy. The Carolina company was positioned at the opening of the wooded path and fired a murderous volley, but were soon forced to retire. Most of the American force was deployed in a line extending across the main road, about 80 yards from the opening of the path. The British emerged, saw the line, withdrew, and then, after a brief pause rushed out and deployed forming a column into a line. Now all hell broke out as our companies began pouring volleys into them and they responded. I have to say that it was pretty cool to see. There was a sense of urgency on both sides that is far too often missing at re-enactments. I have a vivid picture of the American militia, led by Col. Chuck LaCount, rushing out of the woods to reform on the main American line while the Carolina company and an artillery battery temporarily held the enemy off. It was pretty humid and overcast and the smoke hung in the air so much so that my vision was really obscured by the smoke. I’ve always heard of this but rarely experienced, and noticed that it was really from the muskets as much as from the cannon.

Gradually the British pushed us back to a second field and then, my company redeployed to a third field, where the public was waiting. A long pause took place as we tried to keep with the advertised schedule. At first this pause kind of annoyed me, because both sides were within sight of each other just standing. Although I understood the reason for the delay it took me a full day to realize that such a standoff could very well be a plausible activity in itself. I’m so used to wailing away at each other at events that I forgot that many battles involved one side or the other withdrawing to reform out of musket range. Monmouth and Saratoga come to mind. I should have adopted that frame of mind and enjoyed the thunderous discharges from Chuck Wallace’s 6 pounder and Walter McIntyre’s battery... By the way, I noticed four artillery pieces on the American side and four pieces on the Brits. And they were AWESOME!!! There were some artillery discharges that caused us to cheer. I could honestly feel the morale boost of having one’s artillery firing in succession and then rapidly loading and firing again. Here’s a BIG HUZZA to the artillerists on both sides.





To finish Saturday's action, while we waited to resume the battle, a light rain began, which slowly picked up. The battle resumed in the rain and we were pushed to the main field. It now became a challenge to fire as wet powder and muskets were everywhere. I became so engrossed in simply getting my musket to function that I lost track of the rest of the battle. I do know that despite the poor weather, the crown forces were resplendent on the field. They covered the field from one end to the other and were organized in impressive sized companies. I particularly liked the company of either Royal Fusiliers or Grenadiers (forgive my ignorance) whose first rank took a knee each time they fired. The Hessians, Jaegers, Guards, Light Infantry, Line, and even Indians were well represented. Thank you my worthy adversaries for an outstanding job. Both sides struggled for control of a fleche that the Americans had built and after a couple of bayonet charges from both sides the American withdrew...(a bit confused because we thought we were supposed to win but felt that we lost). Frankly, it doesn't matter to me if we win or lose, as long as the outcome of the original battle being re-created occurs.

Saturday Evening: We returned to camp soaked with rain and perspiration and grimy with gunpowder. The rain stopped and we cleaned up. The hospitality of the sites now became evident with free refreshments and entertainment. A large group of us went to the British camp to check out their dance and I noticed right away that it was going to be tough. The biggest problem was that the poor musician was drowned out by all the people sitting at the tables socializing. It was clear to me that it was going to be nearly impossible to hear the music and caller. My suggestion is to have the dance AWAY from the refreshments and tables. There were just too many people under that tent.



Sunday: At 10:30 Sunday a detachment of American volunteers numbering about 40 men, marched off on a patrol under the command of Lieutenant Greg Ehrmann. The boys from the 7th VA were attached to a platoon led by Lt. Carter of the 6th NC. There was a detachment of Light Infantry, who were the advance guard, a

detachment of northern troops, and a detachment of militia. Marching down the wooded path was pretty neat because there was the chance that the enemy would discover us or worse, be tipped off and have a trap waiting for us. We had one difficult obstacle to overcome to gain the enemy camp, sutlers row. About 100 yards into the woods (from sutlers row), the path split in two. Most people continued east to the sutlers, but another path branched to the south, which led to a parking area and ultimately the British camps. The Light Infantry advanced down the path to the sutlers and the rest of us crept along the perimeter of the Crown camp. A volunteer from Davie's Partisans found an ideal opening to strike the camp and off we went. We emerged at the edge of the camp, directly in front of a squad of British troops in their small clothes conducting drill. We clearly surprised the camp, but within moments the enemy recovered and large parties scurried all over to form up. These kind of things are my favorite activities, and when they are done correctly, meaning that each side takes it seriously, they are incredible experiences. Too often the side being attacked chooses to ignore the raid and the whole affair becomes a bummer.

The Final Articles of Capitulation

"The final articles of capitulation, also dated May 12, stipulated that the town, fortifications, shipping at the wharves, artillery, and all public stores be surrendered; that the Continental army and navy troops be held at an agreed upon place until exchanged and be provisioned on par with British troops; that the militia return home, but as prisoners of war on parole, their property and persons protected as long as they observed their paroles; that the sick and wounded be under American care, but provisioned by the British; that officers of the Continental army and navy retain their swords, pistols, and baggage, which would not be searched, but that their horses must be disposed of in the city and that this disposal not take the horses out of town; that the garrison march out to a point between the works and the canal and ground their arms, but not to a British march, nor were the colors to be uncased; that the French consul and French and Spanish citizens be considered prisoners on parole, their persons and property protected, and time allotted for their departure to an agreed upon destination; that all civil officers and citizens bearing arms, and all citizens of Charlestown in general, be considered prisoners on parole, their persons and property respected as long as they observed their paroles; and that a vessel be allowed to depart for Philadelphia with Gen. Benjamin Lincoln's dispatches, which were to remain unopened by the British... Approximately 2,600 Continentals and 800 militia were captured."

Henry Laurens Papers, Vol. 15 1778-82, page 296 ★



I believe the only other time I felt the genuine desire to run away

from the enemy was when I thought the Indians were chasing me at Principio. This same kind of fear / concern gripped me. The crown forces were everywhere, pressing our rear and crashing through the woods on our left in an attempt to cut us off. The American Light Infantry held the crossroad and we worked our way back to the American camp, each detachment covering the other and then withdrawing past the next detachment. Our objective was to probe the enemy camp, and return without casualties and I'm proud to say that we accomplished our mission. My detachment fired nine rounds in the affair, which seemed about average, so this wasn't a powder burner. It was an exhilarating small unit action, and some of the most fun I've had in reenacting.

Not this time though. The detachment drilling in front of us responded as did the Jaegers, Guards, Light Infantry, Indians, and god knows who else. With the long roll pounding away in the distance, people running (yes, running to form up, everywhere) and officers shouting out orders, it felt, sounded, and virtually looked like the real thing. But it only got better, because we still had to get back to our camp before the crown forces cut us off.

There was a moment when the American forces formed on the artillery pieces in the middle field that was simply great, and that was when the battery opened up on the enemy in quick succession...the effect of the barrage brought out a cheer among us. Although I jumped at almost every discharge, I thought the artillery was outstanding on both sides. Lastly, I actually enjoyed the surrender ceremony. The British grenadiers were very impressive. The sight of all those muskets lying on the ground caused me to reflect as to the reason we were there. Both sides handled the ceremony very professionally /seriously and I think it was a very nice touch to the event.

P.S. I'm not familiar with everyone involved with the planning, but I do know that Todd Post was a major force behind the event so to him and all those in the 2nd VA, 3rd VA, and York County Militia who worked with him, let me say one more time, THANK YOU. Your hard work is appreciated.

Craig Hadley reports:

I wanted to just take a quick moment to thank everyone who participated in the 225th Siege of Charleston event. The event was outstanding and all of the participants deserve a huge applause for their efforts. On the British side at Drayton Hall, the total number of British Crown Forces muskets were approximately 340 with seven field pieces of artillery (many of which were horse drawn to the battlefield - an impressive site to see!) with just over 600 total British participants. The Royal Navy was outstanding! They transported eight Jagers and eight light infantry of the 40th Foot in two long boats from Drayton Hall to Magnolia on Saturday to replicate the crossing of the Ashley River. I haven't the final figures on the Continental side as of yet, but was told that the muskets numbered just under 200, not sure of the overall number.

Partisan Pictures, filming for the History Channel this weekend, told us that the footage that got this weekend was the best American Revolution footage they had ever captured. This was the first part of the filming for a new 13 part series on the Revolutionary War that should air sometime between April and May next year. The same goes for the film crew shooting the documentary about the British occupation of Drayton Hall.

All in all, everyone seemed very happy, including the Merchants. Thank you all once again for making this event a success. We will be posting pictures of the event on the event's web site at www.revwarcharleston.com

Steve Doyle reports:

Siege of Charlestown, Day 1, British camp:

The troops are still coming in off the ships. We are camped at Drayton Hall. The Hessian units and navy guard the front of the house and river, while the light infantry and the rest of the British guard the back.

We had heard rumors of an encampment of rebels near us. At 4 o'clock this afternoon a small detachment with artillery was sent into the woods to locate it. The column was hit by two sections of colonial regulars about 200 yards into the woods. While the line units held the path, the 4 light infantry, Butler's rangers and Ewald's pressed the right flank of the regulars. After a brief skirmish the column halted. However, the rebels were stubborn and refused to give way and we were force to dislodge the enemy. With only 2 brief pauses we were able to drive the rebels back to their camp. Being outnumbered we returned to camp.

Huzzah to the brave Northern detachments of the rebels for maintaining their composure and stubborn resistance. Also, to the lads of Butler's and the 4th lights for the honor of commanding such brave soldiers.

Siege of Charlestown, Day 2, British camp:

Most of the army is encamped. Guards have been posted around the Drayton house for the purpose of savant garde. The units were drilled at specific times and detachments were given orders to educate the public that wandered into our lines. Parole was given to some Continentals who wished to visit the sutlers. Brief firing was heard in the woods early afternoon. I believe it was another probe by our forces.



The army was assembled to march off and engage the enemy at 3 pm. It was quite a sight to see. The light infantry, Indians and jagers were to guard the riverbank as the navy brought in the support troops. An engagement took place in the front of the plantation as the boats landed. The regulars meet the rebel line in the back of the plantation. As the action became hot and heavy the rain came. To my surprise the weapons still fired well. Maybe it was the number of troops that kept it going?

Siege of Charlestown, Day 3, British camp:

The weather is fine and a battle took place again at the same field. A long running battle took place to get into position and the battle was well done by both sides of the line.

Lee Bienkowski reports:

I arrived back from Charleston last night at about 10pm. I am sure there are plenty of folks still on the road since of the British artillery units I had the shortest distance to travel (to St. Augustine, Florida).

First I want to complement the organizers of the event to say that they did a great job. The encampment was well organized, the site volunteers friendly and helpful, and the entertainment was first-rate. The Saturday night dance and free beer bash at the British camp was one of the best jollifications I have attended.

We had a lovely little collection of artillery pieces on the British side – four three-pounders of various sizes and a howitzer. It was great to serve in a real battery for a change. As the only British artillery unit in the deep South, I am usually the sole gun with the Crown forces at events in the Carolinas. It was also great to have a pair of Belgian draft horses to haul the artillery to and from the battlefield. With all the guns hitched to the horses, the words artillery train took on a whole new meaning.

I am happy to say that I expended nearly all the charges I brought with me - always a sign of a satisfying event. Occasionally there were some minor glitches in the battles, such as troops getting in front of the guns as we were about to load or sending the whole artillery train down the road into some GFS swamp without anyone knowing exactly where we were supposed to be going. But these things were pretty minor and to be expected in an event on this scale.

One thing that might not have been the smartest idea in the world was the unscripted Rebel raid on the British encampment in mid-morning on Sunday. It was right in the middle of visiting hours, so tourists were in the middle of the action, not to mention the Artillery horses freaking out.

Patrick O'Kelley reports in detail on RevList:

Great reenactments only come around once in awhile. Those you can number on one hand. In the last two years the great ones that come to mind are the 225th of Monmouth, and Quebec last summer. 225th Charleston now rates up there with them.

Capt. Walter M. McIntyre, American Artillery Commander reports:

First I'd like to thank Col. Todd Post, Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, Drayton Hall, the City of Charleston and others involved for providing this event. I'd also like to thank those site people who rushed in when a true "casualty" was brought to their attention.

I was given the great Honor of commanding the American Artillery. I was truly pleased to command Knox's Artillery, the 4th SC Artillery, the Georgia Refugees/1st Continental Artillery, and my own Kingsbury's NC Artillery. I sincerely thank those unit commanders and their crews for their excellent cooperation both on the field of Honor and in camp. On Saturday we fielded 3 three pounders and 1 six pounder. Mark Hubbs of the 1st Continental Artillery had burned out a trailer bearing and was not present on Saturday.

I'll try to stick to the events from the American Artillery point of view. I'm no writer so I won't pretend to know how to describe it where it'll make sense. Both days, after the formation of the army while the gun crews were together, Standing Orders were read including "HOT GUN" signals, and many other items found on the event website. Col. Post was given a copy of these orders. First, I

must say that although it caused me to be exhausted even before the battle, I walked through the battle scenario with the gun commanders (one trip for the six pounder, and one trip for the threes, the six was stationary in the "fletch" in the final field of battle) and it really paid off. Chuck LaCount and I had already walked the "running fight" part of the battle to completely work out the scenario.



Saturday: The opening shots were about 200 yards down a curving wooded trail from the American camp (the trail to the British camp and sutlers). Knox's gun was set up with some militia for a first "ambush". When the British appeared, the Militia opened up on either side of the road, withdrew around the gun, and it barked out. Part of the Militia retreated down the trail, but part stayed to carry on the running fight and support the gun. The gun withdrew to the second position about 50 yards down the trail with the Militia covering. When the Militia passed the gun barked again, again retreating. The Militia covered again fighting all the way, while the gun set up on the next location. The Militia cleared again, the gun barked and once again withdrew. Again the Militia covered, moving slower each time but I know they had to be getting tired. The gun repositioned, but as the tired Militia moved past slowly, the Brits were so hot on their heels; the gun had no time to reload. The Militia covered as Knox's crew moved rapidly down the trail to another opportunity. The Brits were so hot on the heels on the Militia though there was no time for another try.

As previously instructed, Knox's moved to their position to the right of a surprise Chuck LaCount and I had worked out for the British. First, let me describe the surprise. The trail (or road) at this point came to an upside down "Y" intersection, with the Brit line of approach coming down the leg on the "Y". Although very tight, some fresh Militia joined those already exhausted, and formed immediately in front of 2 three pounders. Before anyone passes out, these guns were completely cold. They had not been fired since Guilford in March. They were loaded, but not picked or primed. Chuck LaCount voiced no concern at all with this. Behind us was a painted white fence, with the Pat's Carolina Battalion immediately behind the guns behind the fence.





When Knox's gun and crew emerged from the trail, I posted him some distance to our right to fire through the woods. The reason was to make the Brits think the American artillery was over on their left. Don't know if this ruse worked or not, but it sounded like a neat idea. As the Brits appeared coming down the trail, Knox's bellowed out again then moved to join the other guns for the retreat, the militia in front of our two guns took aim and fired, moving quickly out of the way, the guns were very quickly primed, and fired, then moved quickly to the left down the road while Pat's command took aim and fired. This whole little ambush happened so fast it only took about two minutes. After the two guns fired, I told Col. Blevins that we'd made him a smoke screen because the three-pounder discharge filled the little tree lined road.

All then moved down the upside down "Y"s left leg in retreat. The force took up a position about 30 to 40 yards from the intersection, with all three 3 pounders on the road, the militia in a small wood lined field to our left, the Continentals on the other side of the white fence in a field to our right. We waited for a couple of minutes, that's when some of the Brits made their first (and very brief) thrust into the intersection. The Brits dashed back, and the American line burst into somewhat of a "Rebel" yell. Then the Brits sent out the Indians followed shortly by Regulars who formed with great spirit to oppose us. Spirited fire from both sides ensued, the threes got off a couple of rounds each and withdrew followed by the Militia and Continentals.

All action before this point was almost 100% out of view of the spectators. Now they can see us well. From this point on, as the safe opportunity presents itself, Chuck Wallace has the six pounder belching 10, 12, and 14 ounce rounds which can not only be heard, but felt through the wet ground. As planned, the whole American force withdrew completely through the intermediate field into what was to be the final field of battle to let the Brits form in the intermediate field. When all was ready, the Americans sortied back into the field and began to fire. A cessation of hostilities was called for the appropriate time to arrive. I'm sure the public was a little confused; a narrator would have been of great value at this point.

This is when the rain started falling in a good shower. When the action reopened, everyone threw their best into the fight. The artillery had an especially hard time with the slowmatch in the moisture-laden atmosphere. A portfire would have been great. But we kept up a good fire in spite of the humidity.

After some hard firing, the Americans withdrew again into the final field. To make a long story short, the remainder of the battle, in the rain, was taken up by struggling to keep slowmatch lit while repeatedly retiring and advancing. The rain caused the smoke to lie upon the battlefield in cloudbanks. It was so thick after we did

battery fires I grew a little concerned about the Brits possibly advancing into our guns without us seeing them coming so I didn't order any more battery fires. Sunday: If you'll remember the upside down "Y", the Brits approached from the right leg. Our Lights were waiting about 30-40 yards from the intersection to punch their tickets to the upcoming Ball, along with two 3 pounders. Our other two 3 pounders (Mark had arrived with his gun that morning) were at the intersection awaiting orders. The American Infantry was "resting" along the road along the left "leg" of the upside down "Y". Again, we were out of sight of the spectators.

As our intelligence had reported, the Brits hit us from the expected direction and were a little slowed by our Lights, which withdrew around behind the two guns and took up position on our right. The right gun fired and as planned withdrew. The other gun fired, covering the first and withdrew with the Lights covering its withdrawal. I ordered one to withdraw to the previously mentioned intermediate field while the other three took up position on the road with the Militia on our left and Continentals on our right. We fired and I ordered the withdrawal of another one as the usable space was shrinking in width. They fired and for the same reason I ordered one more to withdraw, the remaining gun pulling back repeatedly to form a rally point for the Infantry and fire.



With the Brits rapidly approaching, the final gun was ordered to the intermediate field, the four guns setting up in battery in the field facing the only avenue for the Crown advance. The infantry worked their way back and formed on the guns, Militia and some Continentals on the left, more Continentals on the right. There was a "gate" in the split rail fence through which the Brits would be forced to enter and the Americans with four guns had it WELL covered. Small trees were growing up through the split rail fence through which we could see the Brits. Our battery opened up in earnest, then the Infantry. It seemed obvious that the Brits didn't like the idea of coming through that gate.

I was ordered to reduce fire by pulling back my guns one or two at a time into the final field where the "fletcher" and the six pounder were. Gradually I pulled them back until our Infantry had no artillery support. They began giving way in a "tactical retreat" so the action could retire into the final field. Once in that field the whole American army was reformed and firing once again began in earnest as the Brits came onto the field and formed. We were beginning to realign the whole army when the "real casualty" that Pat mentioned occurred.

Capt. David Snyder, 64th Regt of Foot reports:

Been a long time since I last posted. I had the honour of commanding the Second Brigade at Charleston, and can do little more than amplify

the kudos presented earlier. It was a grand and most memorable occasion. My compliments go not only to the site organizers, but also to the command staff and participants of both sides. In an event of this size and complexity problems are to be expected, the mark of the professional is that you solve the big ones, and don't sweat the little ones. That was done here.

The Charleston Ball magnificent, my Lieutenant surprised my wife and myself by hiring a horse and carriage to take his wife and us to the Exchange. Talk about making a grand entrance, I know that will be a lifetime memory for the Mrs! I did wear my hat inside, but I believe that it was optional in 18th Century etiquette to remove it at a formal occasion. As I was having a bad hair day, I kept my hat on.



Saturday - The actions were superb, we had to make our approaches to the American forces by marching down a dirt road, the terrain had grown back to its original appearance and there was nary an anachronism in site, so it started turning into one of those reenactor moments as we watched for movement behind every patch of saw palmetto. When the First Brigade made contact with the enemy we hear the shout "GUN!" and learned to reflexively dive off the road into the scrub to evade a canister blast.

My Brigade then took the lead and as I rounded a dogleg turn into a clearing I saw a compact line of rebel infantry with several guns planted in their center ready to cut loose into our flank. I quickly halted the march and made the lead unit hastily withdraw. So yes my friends of the opposition, it was me you saw center stage in your "Kodak" moment!

I hastened back to apprise our overall commander of the situation and he said "Thank you Colonel, deal with it." Knowing that a stately march out into the open would result in a heap of us getting volleys and canister before we could deploy I opted to go for speed to minimize our exposure. I put the brigade at trail arms and ordered them to follow me by files at the double and we tore out of the defile and veered to the right out onto the field and started each unit firing as they formed. We had a hot action going there for a few minutes until the other brigades and our guns deployed to my left and thence we started to push.

The action at the fleche went well until the rain started fouling our muskets, and then a fouled gun in the fleche closed off my area to maneuver, leaving my brigade to largely lay back and fire long-range volleys.



Sunday Morning - I was right in the middle of shopping on Sutler's Row when the shots I heard turned out not to be the firing demonstration I expected but an attack! Fortunately for us, the rebels could not have picked a worse time or place for the assault as a Loyalist unit preparing for the firing demonstration was right there, "locked and loaded", it was just as if they had run into the quarter guard. I managed to rally some troops in small clothes running out of the camp and took them behind Sutler's Row to engage the NJ Lights that I heard were seen in that area. Those Lights had withdrawn by the time we arrived there, so we turned back and assisted Colonel Jay Callaham in pushing the remaining Rebels back down the path. I will note that unlike Colonel Callaham, I was fully dressed. Guards officers require a much longer time to perform their toilette.

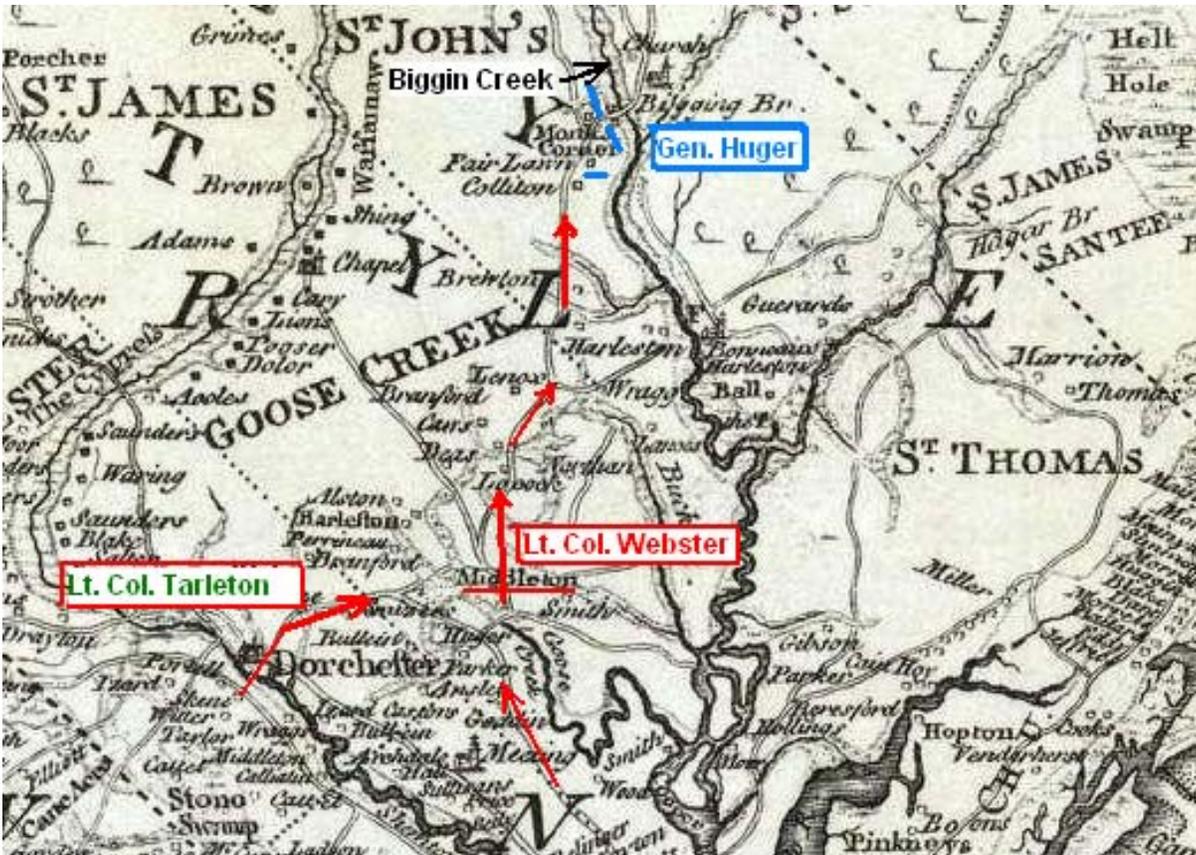


Sunday Afternoon - Traveling that road was like entering a time tunnel. The hot actions of the day occurred around the slave quarters, as we had to force defiles bounded by swamps and overgrown fences. The final siege of the "works" was stupendous, the most salvos of cannon I had heard in a good while. We had a good opportunity to lay in a battalion line volley followed by each brigade laying in their own volleys. I was awed by the surrender march, it bought back memories of the humility and tinge of sadness I felt when I marched out of the works at Yorktown in the Bicentennial. Though I was on the "victorious" side on this occasion, I fully know how you felt.

The Charleston 225th Anniversary celebrations and commemorations are now a part of history. Kudos to all of those who worked so hard to make this part of our Revolutionary War history come alive. It appears that the hobbyist and visitors all enjoyed these events. While the surrender of Charleston was a devastating defeat for the Patriots, these brave forefathers did not give up, but rose to fight again. ★★



The British retrograde movement to reposition the field artillery during the battle. Talk about the confusion of battle, blue coats are the British artillerists. Siege of Charleston 225th Anniversarry at Drayton Hall and Magnolia Plantations on the Ashley River. Photo by David P. Reuwer.



Excerpt from Cook's Map of South Carolina, 1773. Annotated by Charles B. Baxley.