

# HERO IMPRINTS

By Jeannette Holland Austin

## Preface

This is a reflection of battles fought during the American Revolutionary War and includes individual stories and comments of actual soldiers.

We are the children of heroes who deposited their foot prints in the sands of time. One can see the evidence of an earlier time in the soil of old farms and communities. It is the marker of the poor and persecuted who traveled across the seas in search of a better existence...those who came to our shores seeking relief came from the German Palatines in the Middle Rhine region of the Holy Roman Empire. They were the politically scorn of Scotland from the isles and highlands who failed to put their beloved Stuart king on the throne and were punished for it by the English; the Irish serfs and farmers whose dilapidated farms fell into the hands of wealthy sheep herders; they came from the mountains of Switzerland and the streets of London. Ultimately, it was the promise of free land, even to those who, unable to pay for passage, indentured themselves for seven years of service. Free land was the lure . . . and a willingness to carve the wilderness trails into the far west and encounter the wrath of the Indian tribes... all for the land, and freedom.

Their beginnings were of the most primitive of existence; first from the wagon trains, and then log cabins along mountain runs, nearer to Indian villages than American forts. They were farmers, blacksmiths, carpenters, soldiers, inventors, and more.

They formed local militia companies and protected their own. Every man from age sixteen to fifty was asked to serve their neighbors and friends

against brutal Indian attacks . . . and afterwards came the war for freedom. When the call came to fight a British Army of Redcoats in the european-style of facing the enemy in open fields. Those who settled in the blue ridge, allegheny and rocky mountains came with their bow and arrow, bluster guns and flinklocks...they were the *over the mountain men!*

The mountain men would go back East, and join up with an earlier immigration (the thirteen colonies) struggling to exist amongst British soldiers who imposed taxes and tariffs without representation upon the colonists. The forefathers of the eastern colonists had also encountered the wrath of the Indian tribes before them.

As early as 1622, the Chief Powhatan and his federation of tribes, vowed to kill all of the white settlers in Virginia. And they almost did! Afterwards, the Virginia Company of London continued sending vessels to a primitive village called Jamestown, of homes with thatched roofs made from reeds and surrounded by a palisade fence. Life was hard. The settlers could not simply plow up the land and grow crops. They also had to protect one another.

The palisade fence was also utilized at Fort Frederica, one of General Oglethorpe's first forts in Georgia as a protection against the Spanish Indians in Florida.

Thus, attacks from Indians were an ongoing threatening force against the early colonists. .

By the time of the American Revolution, there was a goodly number of tribes, possessed of a variety of customs principles and intent: causes for war.

As a starter, the redcoats found that the Iroquois, Shawnee and Cherokees could be bribed. And bribed they were! The British promised rifles, ammunition, blankets, etc. in exchange for American scalps.

There are many stories told by our ancestors in official records. But most of all, they are discovered by energetic genealogists and historians who dig deeply into the actual records, such as revolutionary war pensions. The imprint is powerful. It tells of the homeplace and its surrounding battles; of the individual soldiers who stopped their planting to go to war; and whose blood was spilled for the sake of freedom. The sacrifice is heart-rendering, yet the cause praiseworthy in its elements. They left an imprint in the soil with their blood, yet also an imprint which guarantees a free Nation under God. This freedom is so precious that we should remember the stories of our ancestors, and tell them to our children. Who are we? Why, we are the children of heroes.

### **No Quarter Given**

It is ... a time gone by. Alas, let us remember!

From the piercing moment when the British Lieutenant-Colonel Banastre Tarleton, known as "the butcher" ordered his regiment to render their swords to cut down the American troops in an open field at the Waxsaws, a border site between the Carolinas, and Colonel Buford's men frantically waving their white flags in the air - to the slaughter of one hundred thirteen soldiers, the way was never made easy for the immigrants to America, nor the soldiers of our wars.

Then there was "Bloody Bill" Cunningham who, at Ninety-Six, South Carolina demanded an unconditional surrender of the Americans, and then proceeded to massacre young *James Butler* and a party of patriots.

### **The Emigrants**

The long, arduous struggle for freedom began on foreign shores, with thousands of German, Irish, Swiss and Scotch-Irish refugees boarding vessels sailing the seas for two or three months before reaching the American colonies. The idea was to escape hardships, religious and political

persecution and to be granted some of the free land. A new home.

Taming the wilderness would be worth it, would it not, to worship as they pleased, escape poverty and the taskmasters?

The virtual settlement of every family was the investment of a lifetime; they would carve wilderness trails across the American west through the virgin forestry of the Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains to settle the frontier. And after constructing cabins alongside crystal clear streams and beneath a private world of blue skies, they would fight off vicious Indians who split scalps, massacred white men and took daughters as slaves.

But as the English King George continued to tighten his hold upon the colonists with cumbersome ordinances and taxes, the colonists felt the oppression. And after battling with the Indians, they would awaken to the reality of a larger force of professional soldiers, siezed cities, and prison ships anchored in the harbor. But alas the Americans would win their victory against a king, and the freedom of inalienable rights.

Our forefathers returned home to rebuild the old farm, communities, towns and cities using the vast resources of the new land. Ah yes, a saving and frugile people. Importing goods was costly; the price of nails and other necessities was exorbitant, so everything was saved. Even the wood and nails from old .

### **Remarks for Genealogists**

An examination of old colonial wills and estates will boggle your mind, as these documents unfold in a story of acquiring land, clearing the forests, domestic animals and tools necessary for the survival of a community and the stretching outward to make room for the arrival of even more immigrants. The expense of economic growth was upon the shoulders of every homesteader. The county documents, such as deeds, plats, wills, estates, marriage records, etc. reveal first-hand the struggles of the colonials who willingly and lovingly embraced the new freedoms written for

America; viz: The Constitution and the Bill of Rights!

The footprints left by our forefathers are indelibly expressed in the American Constitution and Bill of Rights. These wise words framed, not a democracy, but as a Republic . America shall have no king, nor authoritarian government.

Observe: The difference between a democracy and a republic is that a democracy is "mob rule."

Note: At the close of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 and on the final day of the deliberation, as he left Independence Hall, someone asked Benjamin Franklin an important question.

From the notes of Dr. James McHenry, one of Maryland's delegates to the Convention, a lady asked Dr. Franklin "Well Doctor what have we got, a republic or a monarchy." Franklin replied, "*A republic . . . if you can keep it!*"

## **Part I. 1758-1764. The Indian Wars along the Frontier**

Innumerable Indian attacks plagued the settlers on the new frontier. From the beginning, the new settlers had to contend with warring Indian tribes, whose villages spanned from the eastern shore to the head of the Ohio river.

During the early 1700s, as a constant influx of immigrants gathered in Pennsylvania and hitched oxen to wagons and the trail was cut across the Great Wagon Road and Wilderness Trail through the Great Appalachian Valley from Pennsylvania to Virginia; through the Carolinas, and from there to Georgia.

The first known Indian attacks occurred with regularity on the Holston River in 1754. The militia was subject to call and all able-

bodied men were required to turn out. While many families abandoned their homes during the French and Indian War, militia from neighboring regions were brought into the area. Also, the army of Colonel William Byrd (the First Virginia Regiment) was sent to southwest Virginia to assist for two years in bringing peace to the frontier.

On July 30, 1755, the cabin of *William Ingle's* at Draper's Meadows was attacked and burned, and Colonel James Patton who was visiting there, was killed. The Indians took the children as prisoners along with Mrs. Ingle and her mother-in-law, Eleanor Draper.

### **1755 May and June. An Expedition for the Capture of Fort Desquesne**

During May and June of 1755, the British General Edward Braddock led his troops against the Indians at Fort Dequesne, now located in downtown Pittsburgh. The General died in the effort. *Dr. Hugh Mercer* served on this expedition wherein he was severely wounded and left for dead by his own army. Wounded and tramping through the woods, he managed to catch up with his comrades, and afterwards he was appointed captain in one of the military organizations formed to protect the colony against the Indians. In 1756, Dr. Mercer commanded the Pennsylvania territory at McDowell's Fort. Once again, he was severely wounded by the Indians and again abandoned by his comrades. He hid in the hollow trunk of a tree and heard the Indians searching for him as well as their plans to scalp him. When he was not discovered, he commenced his march of over one hundred miles through the wooded land, eating roots and herbs and on one occasion, made soup of a rattlesnake. The wounded Dr. Mercer recovered

from his ordeal.

*General Forbes*, a meritorious British officer, but in poor health was the commander of Fort Desquesne.

*General Washington* gathered his regiment at Winchester, calling out several companies from Augusta County, Virginia to go to Fort Cumberland. They arrived on July 2, 1758, only to be detained until the middle of September. The troops were scantily supplied with clothing and Washington equipped two companies with hunting shirts under the command of *Major Lewis*.

*Colonel Bouquet* took his station at Raystown (Pennsylvania), having eight hundred picked men, some of them British regulars, others in Indian garb, forming part of the Virginia regiment commanded by Major Lewis. Lewis was posted in the rear to guard the baggage, where he formed his regulars in battle array in full view of the garrison. At that point Lewis was completely thrown off guard...there was a sudden sally of the garrison and an attack on the flanks by Indians who were hidden in the bush.

The battle commenced with fire and yelling of the Indians causing panic and confusion. At the first noise of the attack Major Lewis left *Capt. Bullitt* with fifty Virginians to guard the baggage to join the main scene of action. But more Indians sallied from the bushes again and again, attacking with tomahawks and scalping-knives. Major Lewis fought hand-to-hand with an Indian brave, whom he killed. Yet, finding himself surrounded by other braves, he surrendered.

Note: The French built Fort Dequesne at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers which forms the Ohio River in 1757. It was a site for trade and settlers in the Ohio country. The battles with the Shawnee and other Indian tribes continued through 1761 and beyond 1772.

## **Seybert's Fort captured on April 28, 1758**

During the early part of 1758 sixty persons were murdered by Indians in far west (Augusta County, Virginia). The inhabitants of the surrounding county had taken shelter from the Indians. No Indians having yet appeared, a youth named *John Dyer* and his sister went outside one day only to be astonished with a full view of forty or fifty Shawnees going towards the fort. As the children rushed to give the alarm, they were captured.

*Captain Seybert* determined that they could not escape without a vigorous fight, so decided to surrender, despite the objection of some of the people. The gate to the fort was thrown open and money and other articles were given over to the Indians. Afterwards, the Indians arranged the people in two rows and tomahawked most of them while others were carried off as slaves. Young Dyer was the only captive who ever returned!

*Dyer* was taken to the Indian villages of Logstown, then to Muskingum, and later to Chillicothe where he remained a prisoner for nearly two years. When the Indians left for Fort Pitt, he hid himself and was able to return home.

Source: The Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddel, Preston Register, p. 154-158; Campbell's History of Virginia, page 500.

## **1772. October The Shawnees Battle at the Head of the Ohio River**

Despite the end of the French and Indian Wars and local mountain wars with various Indian tribes, the threat of marauding Indians persisted in the far West. By 1772, the white population had progressively increased across the frontier.

One particular story begins with *Edward Franklin*, who, having received no land from the estate of his father, travelled across the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains into a region defined at that time as being in Augusta



County (later Botetourt County) where he acquired a land grant in the Alleghany Mountains on "Pine Run." Like so many others in the region, the Edward Franklin family resided in a log cabin, its location being described in the Minutes of Augusta County when a call was made to residents to build a new road, or run.

Meanwhile, the Colonial Governor of Virginia, Lord Dunsmore, (1772) called up the militia companies of all of Virginia. A son of Edward Franklin, *William*, apparently in his forties, joined Capt. Philip Love's Volunteer Militia. Two volunteer militia companies left the area in boats, paddling up the Mississippi River to the head of the Ohio falls. It was there that Chief Cornstalk, arrayed in his feather-crown, anxiously awaited. No sooner than the militia had alit, the Indian chief wasted no time in launching his attack. The bloody battle lasted all day long, with heavy casualties on both sides. Afterwards, in order to retreat with his casualties and regroup later, the Shawnee chief did what other chiefs did in a lost battle, and signed a Peace Treaty.

The wounded William Franklin returned home to Botetourt with the militia companies.

In 1780, with the Indian attacks still actively fresh in the area, William Franklin decided to answer the call to enlist in the Continental Army and removed his family East. The Southern Campaign was ongoing, and Franklin and his two sons enlisted forthwith. It is noteworthy, however, that although the sons of William joined the war, they served short terms. The real hero in this family was the aging William Franklin Sr. who fought Under General Lighthorse "Harrt" Lee until the last battle!.

Notes: *William Franklin* settled on the James River Mountain. He was married first to *Sarah Boone*, a daughter of *George Boone* of Philadelphia and sister of Squire Boone(Quakers). The Boone families had large families of ten or fifteen children and most of them left Pennsylvania and crossed into the mountains of Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio. *One of Sarah's relatives*

*who located in nearby in Botetourt County, had two daughters who were stolen by Indians.* It was a common occurrence in the mountains for Indians to steal women and drag them through villages and across the countryside, never to return.

Sources: Princess Anne County, Virginia Will Book 1714-1723, LWT of Thomas Franklin probated 4 December 1723; Revolutionary War Soldiers of Georgia by McCall; Estate of Edward Franklin, appraisal dated 27 August 1767, Orange County Wills and Appraisements 1744-78, Book No. 2, pp 383-384; Georgia's Roster of the Revolution, William Franklin pp 83, 381, certified list of Georgia Troops, William Franklin Sr., William Franklin Jr.; George Franklin grave at Davisboro, Georgia.

## **Part II. Indian Attacks during the Revolutionary War**

In 1776, problems with Indian attacks from the Shawnee and Cherokees continued and the militia was again called upon.

An examination of county records in Chesterfield, Fincastle and Montgomery Counties, Virginia reveal that throughout the Revolution, it was the frontiersmen who provided cattle, grain, lead, horses and other materials necessary to keep the American troops in the field. Hence, they were frequently called upon to provide meals for the men and fodder for their horses.

Every year the British would send beads, ear-rings, finger-rings, knives, guns, shot, powder, cloth and other presents to the Indian tribes. The red men were very proud to have such items and they thought highly of the English people.

## **Stories**

*General Andrew Lewis*, son of the first white man to make his home in Augusta County, Virginia, was born in Ireland about 1720. He served as a major in the regiment commanded by Washington in the Ohio campaign of

1754 and 1755; also in the French and Indian wars. General Lewis was highly regarded by General Washington, at whose suggestion he was appointed a brigadier-general in the Continental army. Four of his brothers served in the Revolutionary War, one of them, *Colonel Charles Lewis*, unfortunately killed at Point Pleasant. Source: *Some Irish Settlers in Virginia* by Hon. Joseph T. Lawless, Richmond, Virginia

*Hugh Allen* was a lieutenant in Colonel Charles Lewis' regiment stationed at Point Pleasant in 1774. He was killed in battle and his body was buried beside the remains of Colonel Lewis. Source: *The Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871* by Joseph A. Waddell.

Soon after the war, while *William Tyner* of Elbert County, Georgia was away from home, the Indians came and attacked his wife and children. There was no one to help. The Indians first killed the mother, then dashed the baby's head against a tree, scattering its brains into the yard. The next little fellow was scalped and left for dead, but while this was happening, the young son, *Noah Tyner*, slipped away and hid himself in the hollow of a tree. The Indians searched for him, but did not find him. The daughters were taken as slaves. One day, one of the daughters was left alone with the Indian women. The plan was to burn the girl at the stake the next day. An old squaw did not want the girl burned, so after all were asleep she led the girl down to the river and gave her a canoe. Source: *Markers of Georgia's Name and Fame*, pp. 90-94

### **1776. August. Indian Attacks on the Holston and Watauga Rivers**

*William Christian* qualified as a captain of the Militia during the French and Indian War, serving from 1759 to its end. In 1764 he commanded the expeditions on the James and New Rivers. So it was that when word came in August of 1776 that Indians had attacked settlements on the Holston and Watauga Rivers, Christian and other officers were ordered back to the frontier. Christian led his forces into Cherokee towns, destroying homes, grain and cattle. This left the Indians begging for a treaty. Source: *Early*

Adventurers on the Western Waters, Volume 1, by F. B. Kegley, pp 338.

*Hugh Simpson* served under Captain James Thompson during the fall of the year of 1777; they were ordered on an expedition to guard a garrison near the mouth of New River, where there was an ongoing battle with the Shawnee Indians. In 1778, Simpson served three months under *Colonel William Campbell* on the New River, to fight the Tories. Some Indians were taken prisoners, while others were killed. They hung one Indian. Later, Simpson served under Colonel Campbell on two other expeditions. Source: Pension S31363.

### **1777. Indian Troubles around Boonesboro, Kentucky**

*Colonel Daniel Boone* built a fort as a defense against the Indians. In 1777, the Governor of Virginia raised a company in Bedford County, Virginia under *Captain Charles Watkins* for the purpose of being sent to Kentucky to assist the inhabitants who were engaged in combat with the Indians. The company consisted of fifty men. They were promised forty shillings per month.

## **Stories**

*Arabia Brown* was stationed in Boonesboro as an Indian spy, under the command of *Colonel Daniel Boone*. Brown and thirty men appointed to the task of making salt at Licking Creek, were suddenly taken as prisoners by the Indians. Brown soon escaped, however, and returned to the fort. But now Brown, along with others, was assigned to go out from the fort looking for Indians and give the alarm in the event of danger. One of the necessary hardships of the soldier was grinding corn with a hand mill as they had nothing furnished him but cornmeal. Brown was unable to return to Virginia until *Squire Boone*, a brother of *Daniel Boone*, was dispatched, thus serving on Lick Creek for eight months. Source: Application for Pension Sept 12, 1832, Garrard County, Kentucky.

*William Tracy* volunteered in n August 1777 in this County for twelve months under *Capt. Charles Gwatkins*; marched to old Boonesboro in Kentucky for the purpose of protecting the fort and frontier settlers against the Indians and British. He served under *Lieutenant William Milam* part of the time when *Daniel Boone* was absent. In February of 1778 he was at Big Blue Licks in Kentucky (Nicholas County) with twenty prisoners taken by the Shawnee Indians. Daniel Boone was taken prisoner one day while the soldiers were at the licks making salt for the garrison at the fort. Tracy was kept as a prisoner of war by the Indians for over five years. He was first carried to Chillicothe Town (in Ohio), then high up the river, then to Piqua Towns and many other high places on Big Miami (Great Miami River); then to Detroit. Before the end of the war, he was sold to the British on Lake Erie. Other prisoners were John Hargis, Thomas James, Adam Ore, and John Sevier, who had been taken at different times and were discharged along with Tracey. Source: Pension S7751.

### **Part III. The Fate of Cornstalk, Shawnee Chief**

In 1777 a fort was established at Point Pleasant (West Virginia) which was garrisoned by a small force of men. Some unfriendly Indians were in the area.

*Colonel Skillern* of Botetourt who commanded several companies raised in Augusta and Botetourt counties, arrived at Point Pleasant with a company of men from Greenbrier. Captains *Stuart and Arbuckle* of Greenbrier were also present. Then something peculiar occurred. *Chief Cornstalk*, accompanied by *Chief Redhawk* came to the fort pretending to warn the soldiers that the Shawnee intended to join with the British troops against the Virginians. Although the Indian tribes did soon join with the British, nevertheless, the chiefs were detained as hostages. It was not long afterwards when *Elinipsico*, the son of Cornstalk, arrived to inquire about his father.

Conditions remained unstable, as only recently had two young men, *Gilmore and Hamilton* from Kerr's Creek belonging to a company commanded by *Captain James Hall*, went to the Kanawha to hunt. Upon their return, as they approached the river, some Indians hiding in the weeds fired upon them. *Gilmore was killed and scalped*, but Hamilton was rescued by some of his comrades. As the bloody body of Gilmore was taken across the river, and a cry arose to kill the Indians in the fort. Thus, Hall's men, with the captain at their head, rushed in and killed the two chiefs. (Cornstalk and Redhawk)

Later on, when Indian warfare was somewhat diminishing on the frontier, in August of that same year, *General Anthony Wayne* encountered and routed a large body of the Indians at the rapids of the Great Maumee river in Ohio. It was his last achievement as a popular hero. Certain landmarks sprang up around the country, such as the Wayne Tavern in Staunton, Virginia; a swinging sign located at the corner of Beverley and New Streets was painted with a likeness of "Mad Anthony".

Two years later a comment was made by *Isaac Weld*, an English traveler, as he passed Staunton (on the road traversing the valley), "I met with great numbers of people from Kentucky and the new State of Tennessee, going towards Philadelphia and Baltimore, and with many others going in a contrary direction to explore, as they call it, that is, to search for lands conveniently situated for new settlements in the western country. These people all travel on horse-back, with pistols or swords, and a large blanket folded up under their saddles, which they use for sleeping when obliged to pass the night in the woods."

Notes: Weld said that while he was in Staunton, Virginia, that a party of Creek Indians arrived there on their way to Philadelphia, then the seat of the US Government. The next morning half of the Indians set off without the others, who did not follow until hours later when several townspeople on horseback escorted them part of the way. Source: Travels through the

States of North America by Isaac Weld (1799)

## Stories

The court of Augusta County, Virginia sat on April 18 and May 5 of 1778 for the examination of *Captain James Hall* and *Hugh Galbraith*. They were charged with the suspicion of being guilty of killing Chief Cornstalk and two other Indians in November of 1777. They denied their guilt and since no one witnessed against them, they were acquitted. Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp 254

*George Dixon* entered service during September of 1777, as a volunteer in Greenbrier County, Virginia in the Company commanded by *Captain James Armstrong*, and marched to Point Pleasant on the Kanawha River. *Captain Matthew Arbuckle* commanded the garrison. In November, George Dixon was to join *General Hann* to go against the Indians on the Scioto River (now in Ohio). Private *Robert Gilmore* who had crossed the River Kanhannay for the purpose of hunting was fired upon and killed by Indians. As a result, the militia was enraged, and fired upon and killed four friendly Indians who had been in the fort for several days. One of the Indians was *King Cornstalk*, a Shawnee Indian. Source: Pension S16764

## **Part IV. 1776. Summer. Cherokee Indian Troubles in North Carolina**

Throughout the war for independence, patriots in the Carolinas attempted to maintain peace with the Cherokee Indians, while the british soldiers bribed them with rifles, guns and bullets.

## Stories

*Alexander Cameron* lived among the Cherokee Indians and was known to be a bad and dangerous man. He exhorted (with about four hundred Cherokee warriors) that they should not turn against their English king who

was ill, and instead should join the army against the people of America, more particularly against the South Carolina forces. The whole assembly did the war whoop! (which meant that they approved.) Meanwhile, the patriots sent *Captain Edward Hampton* and his brother, *Preston Hampton*, on a mission to the Cherokee Nation. Previously, the North Carolina Council of Safety had unwisely sent one thousand pounds of powder to the Cherokees. Upon the arrival of Edward and Preston Hampton in the Indian country, they found Cameron and other british emissaries working among them. Cameron seized the Hamptons as prisoners and gave their possessions, i.e., horses, guns and a case of pistols and holsters to the Indians. By some means, the Hamptons managed to escape.

Two years earlier, "the Hampton family was found murdered on the *Asa Cunningham* place, on the line between the counties of Greenville and Spartanburg, South Carolina (the east line of the Cherokee Nation). It is said that the Indians were seeking a different settlement and as they approached Mr. Hampton's house (who had just returned from the Indian towns and given warning of an intended uprising). While some of the children were sent to warn neighbors, old Mr. Hampton met the Indians cordially. He gave the chief a friendly grasp of the hand, but while this was happening, saw his son, Preston, fall from gun fire. Then he felt a tomahawk in his skull! His wife was also tomahawked. An infant son of the *Harrison's* was dashed against the wall of the house, splattering blood and brains. The Indians set fire to the Hampton House. Mrs. Hampton, upon coming up and seeing her father's house in flames, attempted to rush into the midst of the savages, but her husband held her back. At the time, Edward Hampton was at the house of his father-in-law, *Baylis Earle* in North Pacelot." Source: Drayton's Memoirs, vol. i, pg 144; Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina.

*William Morris* first served under Jonathan Kemp's Company of Charles McDowell's Regiment. During July of 1780, they marched from Burke County, North Carolina to the border (Edward Hampton's plantation). While



encamped, they were attacked that night by the British under Major Dunlap. Morris was one of the horsemen selected to give chase to the British the next morning; he caught up with them after riding about twelve miles where they defeated the British. Freeing the American prisoners, they took twenty British prisoners. Source: Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina, Vol 2, pg 212.

### **The Hannon Massacre**

The dividing line between the settlers and the Cherokee Nation was Greenville and Spartanburg Counties, South Carolina.

*Baylis Earle* was traveling this pathway when his horse ran away from him. He followed for some distance expecting to overtake the mare, when he fired a shot to "crease" (to graze the crest or foretop) him, but the ball ranging was too low, and killed the horse. Since wild or branded horses were plentiful, he did not grieve and since he had saved a new saddle, its worth was almost the price of the horse.

The *Hannon* family resided on the banks of the North Pacolet River, on the plantation later owned by *Henry Morgan* (in Polk County, North Carolina). "There was a flurry of Indians while the family were planting corn. They killed Mr. Hannon first, then older members of the family. His son, Edwin, a boy about ten years of age, ran with his little brother John to the river. He had not more than cleared the bank when he heard the lick that ended the life of his poor little brother." Source: Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina, pg 93-95

*George Parks* began his service under William Lenoir, then, during the summer of 1776, he served in a militia company commanded by *Capt. Samuel Johnston* where he participated in the Cherokee Expedition in Eastern Tennessee. Their activities were directed against local Loyalists. He described the taking of many prisoners in his pension. They were on the trial of about thirty Tories who had come from the hollows of the Yadkin

River, crossed at Parks Ford and were headed towards South Carolina "plundering, stealing, and doing other mischief". Parks and his comrades surprised them and chased them back across the Yadkin River. Later, they surprised another group and hanged two of them (*William Cool and Sam Jones*), and "whipping the rest of them to death." Parks also mentions the taking of the celebrated Tory, old *Samuel Sparks*. They decoyed him away from his horse (without his gun) and captured him. He put up a good fight and "considerably injured this applicant by kicking him." They tied old Sparks hand and foot, on his back, and sent him down the Yadkin in a canoe. As Sparks was being sent away he "repeatedly hollowed - - - Hurrah for King George!" Source: Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina, Vol 2, pg 241

## **Part V. THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR: Taking the Oath**

The researcher finds that not all men were willing to enlist in the Militia or the Continental Army. Loyalists generally held their position and did not fight unless they were captured and later joined the Americans to avoid further punishment. Nevertheless, there were a countless numbers of "disaffected" citizens who became enemies of the State. Loyalty to the American cause included taking an "Oath of allegiance to the State." The county courts were required to maintain lists of those who had taken the oath, and of those who refused. Those who declined would not only be disarmed, but would lose their right to hold office, vote, serve on juries or acquire lands. Also, they were to pay double taxes. As the issues with Loyalists or Tories persisted, penalties were increased and a new Treason Act was passed with the penalty of death without benefit of clergy; and their property forfeited. Hence, throughout the war, then, Loyalists were quite aware of the consequences of England's losing the war.

**Disaffection.** There were a large number of Loyalists settled along the frontier in the New River Valley of Virginia. Thus, a wide number of

disaffections commenced as early as 1777 and continued until 1781.

There were known ringleaders of dissidents. *Captain Thomas Burke's militia company* noted that his entire company except four or five and nearly forty of his neighbors positively refused to take the Oath of Allegiance to the States. (Virginia Papers, Draper Mss., 2 ZZ 43). The ringleaders were named, viz: *Price, Bane, Shull and Heavins*. A few months earlier, during September of 1777, *Jacob Kettering*, the miller, bound over on suspicion, declared that he was indeed an enemy of the state and had refused the new paper currency. He was tried in court, fined ten pounds and bound over for twelve months. But there was no prison in New River Valley, so they sent Kettering to Staunton, Virginia where he remained until January 6, 1779. (Summers, Annals, pp. 685-686). It was not uncommon for suspects to post bond and be released, however.

*William Preston* played an important part in the militia during the Revolutionary War. In 1777, William Preston, formerly a surveyor, was appointed county lieutenant of the Montgomery County, Virginia Militia, located on the far western frontier. *Walter Crockett* was appointed as Major in the militia; after the war, he returned to serve as sheriff. *David McGavock* was assistant surveyor,

After *Duncan OGuillion*, *Nicholas Werwick* and *Britain* were put in irons, they confessed that *John Griffith* who lived on the South fork of the Holston River was the person who had enlisted them for the King and administered the oath of Allegiance to the king. OGuillion stated that every bystander was alarmed and expected themselves to be in great danger. This was because his neighbors in the valley had concluded that the country was lost and "sold out to France." A letter from *Walter Crockett* to *William Preston* disclosed the OGuillion was a great villain, stating "a certain *Duncan OGuillion* said that he would scalp Preston and McGavock before he joined the Indians and with them, proceed to kill and destroy all before them!" Guillion was sentenced for treason, however, the matter was to be further

heard in Williamsburg.

Note: The court records in Montgomery County, Virginia disclose many trials of dissidents. The researcher should observe the German, Scotch-Irish and Irish names in this region. For example, the name of Hugh O'Guillion also appears as Guillion and Shuffenbarger appears as Barger.

**The Lead Mines.** The lead mines in the valley of the New River were of great value to the Americans, and the Tories also came after the precious ore. On August 5, 1780, *Colonel Walter Crockett* was assembled with two hundred and fifty men and was about to march against the Tories on the New River when a soldier was murdered and horses were stolen from *Colonel Green* within six miles of Herbert's (later Jackson's) Ferry in present-day Wythe County. (Preston Papers, Draper Mss., 5 QQ48).

Several weeks later, *Charles Lynch*, the superintendent of the Lead Mines, wrote to Colonel Preston that several "principal villains" were hiding on Reed Island near the mountains. Around this time, a great number of confessions were acquired from the Loyalists, or Disaffections. As a result, some people enlisted, while others received thirty-nine lashes. Sources: Preston Papers, Archives, Virginia State Library; Summers, Annals, pp. 708-741.

## Stories

*Francis Charlton* served a fourth tour under the command of Captain Daniel Trigg. They marched to the Lead Mines in Wythe County to prevent the British from taking the mines. Source: *Early Adventures on the Western Waters*, Vol I, by F. B. Kegley, pp 329.

Thomas Overstreet enlisted in Bedford County, Virginia under *Capt. Jacob Early* of the Virginia Militia, for three months. His company rendezvoused with *Major John Ward* and marched from thence through Charlotte, Prince Edward, Cumberland, Powhatan and Chesterfield counties to Petersburg,

where he joined the army commanded by *General Robert Lawson*. His field officers were *Colonel Charles Lynch* and Major Leftwich, the latter of whom, is the same officer he marched under as captain to the lead mines. He was stationed about half mile from Petersburg during the whole time. Source: Pension W26604.

*Josiah Terry* volunteered in 1776 under Captain Joseph Renfro, marching from Botetourt County, Virginia where he was stationed for three months guarding Madison's Fort. The forts and frontiers in the western part of Virginia were exposed to Indians and a guard was constantly kept. When they arrived at Kinder's Fort at the head of the Holston River, they were informed that they were not wanted on the expedition and were ordered to halt and guard Kinder's Fort. The following year he volunteered to go to the lead mines in Botetourt County (now Wythe County) where he was stationed for three months guarding from the Indians and Tories. In 1778 he again volunteered under *Captain Joseph Rentfro* for six months and started from Botetourt County in the State of Virginia to go to the mouth of the Kanawha River against the Shawnee Indians. Upon arriving at Greenbrier, they were informed that they were not wanted at the mouth of the Kanawha. He was then stationed in Greenbrier County where he served six months as an Indian Spy. Source: Pension S31508.

## **Part VI. The Revolutionary War: Northern Campaign**

Although there was armed conflict beginning in 1775, the official War for Independence did not commence until July 4, 1776 when George Washington began to create an army in Boston. He evacuated the city in March of 1776. The British fleet descended upon New York in August of 1776, and their superior naval power led to victories on Long Island and Manhattan. The Northern Campaign amounted to battles in New York, White Plains, Philadelphia, Trenton, and Quebec.

## Stories

*Joseph Galloway*, a native of Maryland, but a long-time resident of Pennsylvania before the Revolution, was an early and active sympathizer to the American cause until the time that the Declaration of Independence was written. He then became a Loyalist whose opinions were sought after the war.

During a visit to England he was examined before an investigating committee of the House of Commons in June of 1779, and his testimony has been frequently published.

When asked as to the composition of the Rebel army, his answer was *"The names and places of their nativity being taken down I can answer the question with precision; there were scarcely one fourth natives of America; about one half Irish; the other fourth were English and Scotch."*

Thus, a fourth part was composed of some English, very few Scotch, and more Germans, or Dutch from Pennsylvania and the valley of Virginia, who formed the brigade under the command of *General Muhlenberg*, and the Eighth Virginia regiment. The testimony of *Galloway* referred to his experience while superintendent of the police in Philadelphia during the British occupancy.

*"Do you know anything of the army of the Rebels in general, how that is composed; of what country people?"*

*His answer was, "I judge of that by the deserters that came over." It has been estimated that about one fourth of all the American officers were Irish by birth or descent and a large number of Irish were in the Continental Congress or prominent as leaders in every station of life. It is also believed that General George Washington was descended on both sides from Irish fore bearers."*

## **The Boston Tea Party**

*Ebenezer Fox* provides an interesting account of events leading up to and after the dumping of the tea.

The colonies were in a state of great depression, impoverished and dispirited. "Throughout the country, hardly a town could be found, which had not sent out its little band of warriors, or aided in defraying the expenses of the soldiers, and many had lost relatives or friends in the prolonged contest; while those who returned to their homes were, many of them, sick and enfeebled from the exposure and hardships which they had entered. . .It would have seemed but just and reasonable, that the scarcity of money and the condition of business should have exempted the colonies from additional burden of taxation. But such was not the opinion of the British ministry. . .Among many insults against the feelings of the people, the stationing of garrisons in New York and Boston were particularly obnoxious . . .In 1768, the arrival of two regiments of British soldiers which were stationed in the State-House in consequence of the inhabitants refusing to furnish quarters for them, excited the most intense hatred and resentment against the tyranny and oppression of government, and was an insult to the house of their public assembly which could not be tolerated. The assembly, . . . refused to hold their council, unless the soldiers were removed. The governor therefore adjourned them to Cambridge and demanded a supply of money for the troops, which of course was refused, as derogatory to the dignity of the Province. In 1769, parliament, as if resolved to try every sort of insult, in an address to the king, requested him to give orders to the governor of Massachusetts . . .to send all who might be guilty of treason to England, that they might be tried there.

"The House of Burgesses of Virginia met soon after and passed a resolution denying the right of his majesty to remove an offender out of the country for trial. . . .

"The detested duty on tea was imposed in 1773, and no American can

forget how it was received, particularly in Boston. . . ."

"My brother and myself were sent to Boston to choose our trades and seek out employers. James found a situation in the bakery of *Mr. Edward Tuckerman* in the south part of town, as an apprentice under probation; and I found employment in the shop of *Mr. John Bosson*, a barber and manufacturer of wigs, upon the same conditions . . . .

As I had observed, this was on the night previous to the battle of Lexington. At that time much excitement prevailed in the public mind. Great anxiety was manifested in the country in the vicinity of Boston to know what was going on there. People went out in all directions to hear the news from town. . . About eleven o'clock, finding ourselves excessively fatigued, we determined upon taking up our night's lodging on the ground by the side of a stone wall. (in Dedham). With feelings of despondence I stretched myself upon the earth, with my bundle for a pillow, and observed to my companion, 'This is hard lodging, Kelley, but we may have harder.' After a cold and uncomfortable night's rest, we started our day and reached Walpole about ten o'clock in the morning. Before entering the village, we stopped at a tavern and called for a bowl of bread and milk, the price of which was three pence; but the kind-hearted landlord refused to take any compensation. We now were constantly meeting with people, who, anxious to hear the news from Boston, frequently interrogated us . . . the stage coach from Boston arrived at the tavern, where the passengers were to dine. They brought the news of the Lexington battle, with an exaggerated account of a loss on the side of the British of two hundred men, and on that of the Americans of only thirty. This was received with loud shouts of exultation, while the militia marched off full of ardor and zeal." . Source: Ebenezer Fox of Roxbury, Massachusetts (biography)

### **1775. April 19. Battles of Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts**

The first expeditions of the Revolutionary War occurred in Middlesex County. The American Army succeeded in destroying British cannon and



supplies of the Concord Militia and to drive back the enemy. Forty-nine were killed, thirty-nine wounded and seventy-three missing.

## Stories

*Capt. Samuel Payson*, listed in the findagrave memorials. An anonymous note was left, viz: "This man served during the Lexington Alarm, raised a company of volunteers and literally sold his farm to help his town pay soldiers during the American Revolution."

*General Joseph Warren* nee Doctor, who was mocked by his peers for joining the patriots, was killed on the first day of this battle. On April 19, 1776, word was brought to him by a special messenger of the events which had occurred on the village green of Lexington. He called for his assistant to take care of his patients, then mounting his horse, rode towards the scene of action. A British musket ball struck a pin out of his hair close to an ear. The guns were booming. "I am here," he told General Putnam, "only as a volunteer. Tell me where I can be most useful." He fought during three onsets, cheering the men; he was the very last one to leave the redoubt. He had not gone sixty yards when a British officer, snatching a musket from a soldier, shot him. The bullet entered through the back of his head. Warren placed his hands to the wound and fell dead. The enemy buried him where he fell, and it was not until after the British had retreated from the field nine months later, that he was disinterred and buried honorably. Source: *Revolutionary Heroes, and Other Historical Classic Readings--No. 16* by James Parton.

### **1775. June 17. Battle of Bunker Hill**

This battle was fought during the Siege of Boston in Charlestown, Massachusetts. The day before, on the night of June 16, the American forces had fortified Breed's Hill which commanded the northern portion of Boston and is connected with the neighboring Bunker Hill by a ridge extending about seven hundred yards. Among the defenders of the fence

was *Captain Dearborn*, on Colonel Stark's right wing. Of these men, Dearborn said "Not an officer or soldier of the continental troops engaged was in uniform, but were in the plain and ordinary dress of citizens; nor was there an officer on horseback." The win by the Americans were attributed to the stubbornness resistance of the provincials who twice drove the British regulars back in disorder and gave hope for the win. *General Wilkinson* said "*Colonel Stark's* men were directed to reserve their fire until they could see the enemy's half-gaiters."

## Stories

*Captain Dearborn* described his adventure under the leadership of *Colonel Benedict Arnold*. Colonel Arnold's personal aide, *Colonel Aaron Burr* and *James Wilkinson* who, like Captain Dearborn, had given up his medical practice to fight for liberty did not join the expedition until spring.

The attack began before daylight and Dearborn's troops, detached from the main body, lost their way in the snow and darkness. Dearborn was nervous when the troop came upon some soldiers at dawn; when he saw that they were plainly dressed, one of them asked who Dearborn was. He answered "a friend". "A friend to what?" "To liberty." The person, cursing, raised himself partly above the pickets whereupon Dearborn clasp his piece charged with a ball and ten short, and gave the stranger his due. But the gun did not go off. He primed and flushed to try again, but none of the troop members could get off a shot, as the guns were too wet. They found themselves out-numbered, six to one. Dearborn surrendered after being promised good quarters and tender usage...Dearborn and his officers were carried to the main guard-house for a good dinner and wine. Dearborn was confined by the British for several months and was frequently taunted with the threat that in the spring he would be sent to England and hanged as a rebel. On May 16, 1776 he arranged to return home on parole, as most of his companions were confined till the close of war. After a long sea voyage, during which he was "treated with the usual

contumely and hatred of English officers, he finally reached Portsmouth on July 16. The following spring Dearborn was relieved of his parole through an exchange of prisoners and given the job of Major of the Third New Hampshire Regiment which was set out for Ticonderoga early in May.

Source: Revolutionary War Journals of Henry Dearborn 1775-1783 (from his journals kept during the war, p 5.

**1775. September. Battle of Quebec. The Failed Expedition of *Benedict Arnold*.**

An objective of the Continental army in 1775 was to capture St. Johns and Montreal in Canada, hence the invasion was launched after the Battle of Bunker Hill. While *General Washington* was besieging General Howe's troops in Boston, *Colonel Montgomery* led an expedition north by way of Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River.

Some eleven hundred troops were detached from the American Army in Boston, consisting of two battalions of musket-men and three companies of rifle-men as light-infantry.

During the early part of September of 1775, *Colonel Benedict Arnold* led a force of some eleven hundred Continental Army troops from Cambridge, Massachusetts through wilderness country (now Maine). The journey up the Kennebec River was difficult, especially when the boats leaked and ruined gunpowder and spoiled food supplies. As a result, more than a third of his men turned back before reaching the land between the Kennebec and Chaudiere rivers. The troops, inexperienced in handling boats in white water, ended up losing supplies and boats.

When Arnold finally reached the French settlements above the Saint Lawrence River, his force was reduced to six hundred starving men who had traveled about 350 miles through a poorly charted wilderness. If it were not for the assistance of the local French Canadians, his troops would have never crossed the Saint Lawrence river. Nevertheless, by the middle of

November they reached Quebec City and attempted to put it under siege. When this failed, Arnold withdrew to Point-aux-Trembles until *Colonel Montgomery*, the officer of the other part of the expedition, arrived to lead another unsuccessful attack on the city.

Source: Revolutionary War Journals of Henry Dearborn 1775-1783, pp. 9-11, 51-54.

#### The Traitor: Benedict Arnold

5 January 1781. A British force under Benedict Arnold invaded Virginia. They sailed up the James River and entered Richmond without any resistance and destroyed all of the public stores and some private property, then departed down the river. Source: Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Vol. I.

## Stories

Among the Montgomery troops from the State of Georgia was *Clark Blandford*, a later resident of Elbert County, Georgia, who was captured and paroled. Afterwards, Blandford returned to New Jersey where he entered the Militia and insisted upon serving until end of war, first under *Colonel John Nelson*, and then under *Lieutenant Colonel Scudder*. He helped in the capture of Bennets Island and was in the battles of Short Hills, Trenton, Springfield, Mud Island and Monmouth. During his term he served as sergeant and sergeant-major and was wounded in action three times.

According to his pension, *William Beckett* enlisted in 1776 for three years and served under *James Dilliard* and belonged to the 10th Virginia Regiment of the Continental establishment commanded by *Colonel John Green*, under the immediate command of *Capt. James Franklin*. He served three years, part of which was under *General Anthony Wayne*; was at the battle of Brandywine Pennsylvania on September 11, 1777. Also, he was at the taking of Stoney point [Stony Point NY, 16 Jul 1779], and at the Seige of

Fort Mifflin on Mud Island PA, 10 Oct to 15 Nov 1777], and in several skirmishes. In 1821 at the making of his application he was 63 years of age. The testimony of *James Dillard* and *James Jones* provided. Source: Pension S37738

*Major James Dillard* of the 10th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Army served throughout the Revolutionary War. He was first married to Mary Ramage of Laurens County, South Carolina who made an all-night ride to warn her husband's company that the British planned a surprise dawn attack. He was with *General Anthony Wayne* at the battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. Sources: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Clinton, Laurens County, Birth: 1755, Culpeper County, Virginia, USA. Death: 4 Dec 1836 (aged 80–81), Laurens County, South Carolina, USA; South Carolina Pay Bill for Capt. James Dillard's Company of Rangers under the Command of Col. Levi Casey from 24. th. April until the 8. th. of June 1782 . Source: National Archives Publication Number: M246: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783: South Carolina: Casey's Regiment: 1782; James Dillard; pension application W7019 (then a lieutenant in the service of the United States, witnessed Wm Beckham's petition) died intestate 1794 in Amherst County, Virginia.

## New York City

During the American Revolution, the British marched on the city and directed its evacuation. There was a terrible fire.

### **1776. September 21. The Evacuation of New York**

*Colonel Knowlton* led the patriots against the british at Harlem Plains on September 16th. The battle occurred in a clear field where the enemy had lodged themselves behind a fence with bullies. Colonel Knowlton fell nobly on the Harlem Plains and was buried in the trenches of Fort Washington where his remains were left without a marker.

*George Clifton* of Orange County, New York was a member of the General

Assembly of the colony wherein he took his seat on May 15th; he voted for Independence July 1776 and was called into the field before the engraved copy of the Declaration has been prepared for his signature. In March of 1777 he was commissioned a brigadier-general in the Continental Army and in April of that year chosen both Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of New York; he was re-elected to the office of Governor for five terms (eighteen years).

When the enemy moved up the Hudson River in October of 1777, *George Clifton* and his brother, *James Clifton*, desperately defended Fort Montgomery with bravery, yet they were taken prisoners of the British.

From a letter written by General George Clinton at King's Bridge, 21st September 1776.

"Dear Doctor ... I was favoured with yours by *Capt. Jackson* wrote at my house eight days ago for which I am much obliged to you as it really relieved me of great anxiety respecting Ceaty's health which I however yet fear is in a declining state. Your brother too I hear lays very ill at my house with a favour which gives me great concern. I have been so hurried and fatigued out of the ordinary way of my duty by the removal of our Army from New York and great part of the public stores to the place that it has almost worn me out though as to health I am as well as usual; but how my constitution has been able to stand lying out several nights in the open air and exposed to rain is almost a miracle to me...Whom at home the least wet indeed some times the change of weather almost laid me up. The evacuation of the City I suppose has much alarmed the country. It was judged untenable in Council of General Officers considering the enemy's possession of Long-Island etc. was therefore *advised to be evacuated*. The Artillery (at least all worth moving) and almost all the public stores were removed out of it before the enemy landed and attacked our lines near the city....we had but few men there (those indeed did not behave well)...."

With the defeat of *Lord Cornwallis* in Virginia and the end of the war, a

considerable number of refugees embarked upon the seas, bound for Nova Scotia and Canada. One large British transport was filled with soldiers of different corps headed for Quebec accompanied by a number of Light Dragoons. According to *General Washington*, on August 26, 1783, about two thousand Hessians embarked for Europe and one thousand blacks for Nova Scotia.

Source: New York City during the American Revolution from the Manuscripts of the Mercantile Library Association of New York City (1862).

## NEW JERSEY

New Jersey was an important state to the American Revolutionary War because of its location; it was centered between New York City and Philadelphia.

### **1776. December 26. Battle of Trenton, New Jersey**

Capture of the Hessians after the famous crossing of the Delaware. The battle occurred on the morning of December 26, 1776, in Trenton, New Jersey. After *General George Washington's* famous crossing of the Delaware River North of Trenton, in the dead of winter, he led the main body of the Continental Army against Hessian auxiliaries garrisoned at Trenton. After a brief battle, almost two-thirds of the Hessian force was captured, with negligible losses to the Americans. However, the battle significantly boosted the Continental Army's waning morale, and inspired re-enlistments.

## Stories

*Thomas Jordan* served as a private on the Virginia Line; he suffered disabilities during the capture of the Hessians at Trenton and received a pension as an invalid. Source: Mrs. Anna Jordan application for a pension R5759 (rejected), Page County, Virginia dated 10/22/1838.

*Conrad Crump* was hired as a professional soldier to fight with the British. He was taken prisoner at the battle of Trenton; later exchanged and taken by the British to Georgia. While at Ebenezer, he deserted and went over to the American camp at Purysburg to serve under *Colonel White*, commander. From there, he received a permit to go to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina and arrived there during the spring of 1779. The following year he enlisted as a substitute for *John Burger* and served in *Captain Grabriel Enoch's* Company in the regiment of *Colonel Alexander Lillington*. He fought at the siege of Charleston and was captured again when the city fell to the British. He was then transported to Long Island, New York where he escaped once again and made his way through the Jerseys into Pennsylvania, Virginia and back to Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, arriving before Christ of 1781. Source: Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina, Vol 1, pg 51.

*Benjamin Hamrick* enlisted in the year 1776 with *Captain John Chilton* and served in the Third Regiment of the Virginia line under Capt. Chilton, regiment of *Colonel Hugh Mercer and General William Woodford*. From Williamsburg, Virginia the regiment marched to Alexandria and from there they were ordered to New York island in the State of New York where they joined the regular army. He was present at the battle of Trenton and the taking of nine hundred Hessians. He was then at the battle of Princeton where he aided in taking three hundred prisoners; also at Brandywine; and Germantown. Source: Pension S5472.

### **1777-1777. Winter. Valley Forge, near Philadelphia**

Valley Forge was one of eight winter encampments for the Continental Army. In September of 1777, Congress fled Philadelphia after the British captured the city. George Washington's troops of some twelve-thousand men spent six months at this location, amid a supply crisis, disease and malnutrition. Soldiers were enlisted and discharged at this camp.



### **1780 June 23. The Battle of Springfield, New Jersey**

After the Battle of Connecticut Farms, on June 7, 1780 had foiled Lieutenant General Wilhelm, Baron von Knyphausen's expedition to attack *General George Washington's* army at Morristown, New Jersey, Knyphausen and Lieutenant General Sir Henry Clinton, British commander-in-chief, decided upon a second attempt. Although the British were initially able to advance, they were ultimately forced to withdraw in the face of newly arriving rebel forces, resulting in a Continental victory.

The last battle fought in New Jersey was the Battle of Springfield fought in Essex County, New Jersey.

### **Maryland**

Maryland, limited by her population, furnished some 20,000 men in the cause of the American revolution and was known to have furnished some of the best fighters in the war. When the province was threatened with subjugation by Lord Cornwallis, it was the Maryland Line which came to her rescue and formed under *General Greene* to strike a fatal blow against the British. Quoting from the Life of General Greene by Johnson: "There is a clannish spirit in the States of the Union which will ever dispose the writers they produce, to blasen with perculiar zeal the virtues and talents of the eminent men of their respect States. And it will probably happen, that in future times the States that have produced the ablest writers will enjoy the reputation of having produced the ablest statesmen, generals and orators."

A number of brave soldiers served from the Maryland colony including *Joshua Barney* who was the first of the naval officers from Maryland who engaged in service, and the last one to quit! Sources: Carrington's Battles, 491; Johnson's Life of General Greene, 11, 1811.

*William Few*, a resident of Maryland, came to Columbia County, Georgia after the war, where he received bounty land grants in 1769 and 1781.

While still in Maryland, William Few and a brother associated themselves with the "Regulators", a group of frontiersmen who opposed the royal governor. As a result, the brother was hanged and the Few family farm was destroyed. Once again William Few was forced to move, this time to Georgia where he was elected to the Georgia Provincial Congress of 1776. Few joined the local Richmond County Regiment, which his older brother, *Benjamin Few*, commanded. During the American Revolution, Few fought in the Battle of Burke County Jail, served in the state legislative sessions, and took part in Georgia's 1777 constitutional convention. In 1780 he was elected to the Continental Congress.

### **1777. June-October. Campaign at Fort Ticonderoga**

The plan was for General Burgoyne to advance south from Canada and up to Lake Champlain to capture Fort Ticonderoga and then march south along the Hudson River to cut off the rebellion. The British thought that they could put down the rebellion in the New England region, and thus end the war.

## **Stories**

*Captain Dearborn* set out for New York on July 25, 1776 to settle his accounts there where he remained until the enemy took possession of Long Island. On March 24, 1777 he was exchanged and appointed Major of the Third New Hampshire Regiment of *Colonel Alexander Scammell*. Then, he set out for Ticonderoga where General Burgoyne was located.

*Ebenezer Williams* was drafted in October of 1780 into Captain Isaac Parsons Company of Virginia for six months; marching from Hampshire County Virginia to the Barracks near Winchester (within two miles) where he was stationed for the purpose of guarding the prisoners taken at the capture of Burgoyne a part of which were kept at the Barracks aforementioned and there guarded. He served his military duties until shortly after the surrender of Lord Cornwallis when he was discharged.

Source: Pension application of Ebenezer Williams W4391 Catharine fn63VA

### **1777. October 4. The Battle of Germantown, Pennsylvania**

After defeating the Continental Army at the Battle of Brandywine on September 11th, and the Battle of Paoli on September 20th, General Howe out-maneuvered *General Washington*, seizing Philadelphia, the capital of the United States (September 26). Howe left a garrison of some 3,000 troops in Philadelphia, while moving the bulk of his force to Germantown, then an outlying community to the city.

Learning of Howe's division of troops, *General Washington* was determined to engage the British. His plan called for four separate columns to converge on the British position at Germantown. The two flanking columns of the American army were composed of three thousand militia, the center-left, under *General Nathanael Greene*, the center-right under *John Sullivan*, and the reserve under Lord Stirling were made up of regular troops.

The ambition behind the plan was to surprise and destroy the British force, much in the same way as Washington had surprised and decisively defeated the Hessians at Trenton. In Germantown, Howe had his light infantry and the 40th Foot spread across his front as pickets. In the main camp, Wilhelm von Knyphausen commanded the British left, while Howe himself personally led the British right.

A heavy fog caused a great deal of confusion that day and seem to disguise the approaching Americans. After a sharp contest, Sullivan's column routed the British pickets. Unseen in the fog, around one twenty men of the British 40th Foot barricaded the Chew Mansion. When the American reserve moved forward, Washington made the erroneous decision to launch repeated assaults on the position, all of which resulted in heavy casualties. Penetrating several hundred yards beyond the mansion, Sullivan's wing became dispirited, running low on ammunition and hearing cannon fire behind them. As they withdrew, *Anthony Wayne's* division collided with

part of Greene's late-arriving wing in the fog. Mistaking each other for the enemy, they opened fire, and both units retreated. Meanwhile, Greene's left-center column threw back the British right. With Sullivan's column repulsed, the British left outflanked Greene's column. The two militia columns had only succeeded in diverting the attention of the British, and had made no progress before they withdrew.

Despite the defeat, France, already impressed by the American success at Saratoga, decided to lend greater aid to the Americans. Howe did not vigorously pursue the defeated Americans. Instead, he turned his attention to clearing the Delaware River of obstacles at Red Bank and Fort Mifflin. But after unsuccessfully attempting to draw Washington into combat at White Marsh, Howe withdrew to Philadelphia. Washington, with his army intact, withdrew to Valley Forge, where he wintered and re-trained his forces.

October of 1774. The spirit of resistance to tyranny and to unjust legislation was in the colony, and during the above battle the brig *Peggy Stewart* was burned to the ground with her cargo of tea at Annapolis in open day, by men who boldly assumed the responsibility of their actions. Source: Force's American Archives, 5th Series, I, 975.

## Stories

The hero of Germantown was *John Eager Howard*, who had served as Captain in the regiment of *Colonel Carvil Hall* and enlisted in the Continental Army in time to take part in the battle of White Plains where he was promoted to Major in one of the seven Continental regiments. So it was that in the absence of the Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel that he was in command of his regiment at Germantown. It was an opportunity to display great skill and courage. He was described as having "every requisite for the perfection of the military character---patience, judgment, intrepidity, decision.....He is as good an officer as the world affords, and

*deserves a statue of gold no less than the Roman and Grecian heroes."*

Source: Sparks' Washington, V, 80.

Prisoner. After the battle of Germantown, the surrender of Burgoyne brought about the exchange of prisoners which prompted an exchange for which the rebels received an Maryland soldier, *Otho Holland Williams* who had served at the siege of Boston in 1775 as Lieutenant and Captain in the first company of Marylanders sent to Massachusetts. When the Maryland and Virginia riflemen were formed into a regiment in 1776, he was promoted to Major, modestly declining the appointment of Colonel of the Frederick County battalion. Williams was taken prisoner at the surrender of Fort Washington, where the Marylanders sustained a long and bloody conflict with a body of Hessians more than ten times their number! Williams received harsh and unworthy treatment in the hands of the British during his fifteen months of captivity. Source: Sparks' Washington, V, 80.

*William Aaron* of Amherst County, Virginia enlisted in the 10th Virginia Line, Virginia Regiment of *Colonel Stevens* for three years. His regiment marched to headquarters at Bowbrook, New Jersey; thence over the mountains where he came down with the measles and was sent to the hospital at Mendow. Later, Aaron rejoined his regiment at Germantown, Pennsylvania, but had a relapse and was put into the White Horse Hospital near Philadelphia. Later, he was sent to Pech Hall near Philadelphia and then to Burlington, New Jersey where he was placed on bullet guard. His final service was at Valley Forge where he was furloughed. After his service expired, he reported to *General Muhlenburg* at Rocky Ridge.

*General Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee* referred to the battle of Germantown as follows: "Our loss was considerable, and unhappily augmented by the capture of the Ninth Virginia regiment and its brave Colonel Matthews, who had, with a part of the Sixth, led by Colonel Towles, victoriously pierced into the midst of the British army, where, gallantly contending, unsupported, he was compelled to surrender." Source: Lee's Memoirs, 1869 edition, pp 95).

*Thomas McKissack* enlisted in Person County, North Carolina in the Third North Carolina Continental Battalion of *Colonel Jethro Sumner* and *Capt. Jacob Turner*. He fought in the battle of Germantown where he was wounded in the right shoulder and carried off to a hospital called Redding where he remained for sometime before returning to headquarters at Valley Forge. Source: Treasurer's and Comptroller's Records, Veteran Papers, North Carolina Archives.

*John Alinton* enlisted during the winter of 1775 and 1776 by a certain *Lieutenant George Berry* in a company commanded by *Capt. Bell* in Crab Orchard, Virginia in the Allegheny Mountains (now Preston County, West Virginia). From Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania the company marched to the cross-roads of Pennsylvania where they joined the American army under the command of *General Washington*; that the said regiment was now placed under the command of a *Colonel William Russell*. From thence they moved with the army into the State of New Jersey, then back to Pennsylvania. Alinton was in the battle of Brandywine and Germantown. While in Germantown, he received a wound in one of his hands from a splinter from the stock of his Gun which was shattered by a ball. Source: Pension VAS2205.

## **Part VII. REVOLUTIONARY WAR: THE SOUTHERN CAMPAIGN**

### **VIRGINIA**

#### **The Call to Frontiersmen to Serve in the Southern Campaign of the Revolutionary War**

At the beginning of 1775 there were about 30,000 people residing in Western Virginia. At that time Augusta and Botetourt counties were part of West Virginia, from the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Ohio River, while the other units of government were in Berkeley and Hampshire Counties and

the district of West Augusta by an Act of the Virginia Assembly in 1776, from which the counties of Monogalia, Ohio and Yohogania were formed. The Mason and Dixon Line was extended when the greater part of Yohogania fell into Pennsylvania and the residue was added to Ohio County. During 1776, old Fincastle County was done away with and the counties of Kentucky, Washington and Montgomery were erected, extending into Ohio. The western part of Botetourt was formed in Greenbrier County in 1777, extending to the Ohio River.

The first call for soldiers from this region came during the July 1775 Virginia Convention, from which two regiments of four hundred men were called to the defense of the colony. One hundred men enlisted from the district of West Augusta and were stationed at Pittsburgh, while twenty-five were enlisted to serve at Fort Fincastle (later Fort Henry) at Wheeling; and another one hundred men were raised in Botetourt County, then extending westward to the Ohio River to serve in Fort Randolph at the mouth of the Great Kanawha, now Point Pleasant (West Virginia).

The second call was during October of 1776, to raise six battalions of Infantry on Continental Establishment wherein captains, lieutenants and ensigns, and seven hundred and thirty five men were sent from the above named counties to the fort.

The third, fourth and fifth calls came in 1777 and 1779; the sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth calls were made during 1780 and 1781, with the final call for troops in the Continental Army being made during May of 1782.

Meanwhile, during the autumn of 1777, Henry Hamilton, the British Lieutenant-Governor at Detroit, dispersed arms, ammunition and supplies to the Indian tribes of the Ohio Wilderness,, having persuaded them to become allies of the British and fight along the western Virginia frontier.

Lord Chatham denounced the alliance between Great Britain and the American savages as a "disgrace...a deep and deadly sin", but he was

ignored as the alliance commenced and continued until the close of the Revolution.

On September 1, 1777, an Indian Army three hundred strong, consisting of Mingoes, Shawnees, Delawares and Wyandots under the leadership of Simon Girty and carrying British colors, laid siege on Fort Henry and massacred twenty men. On the 27th, the defeat of *Captain William Foreman* at McMechen Narrows occurred. Officers: *William Foreman, Captain, Anthony Miller, Lieutenant David Wilson, Ensign. Privates- Edward Peterson, James Greene, Isaac Harris, Henry Riser, John Vincent, Nathan Foreman, Samuel Johnson, John Collins, Benjamin Powell, John Wilson, Robert McGrew, Bartholomew Viney, Solomon Jones, Abraham Powell, Jacob Ogle, Robin Harkness, Hambleton Foreman, Jacob Pugh, Elisha Shriver, Anthony Miller, William Ingle, Samuel Lowry, Abraham Powell, William Linn.*

In April of 1778 a body of Indians appeared at Fort Randolph at the mouth of the Great Kanawha, and Lieutenant Moore, with some men from the garrison sallied forth to drive them off, however, fell into an ambuscade. *Lt. Moore* and three of his men were killed. Again, in May, the Indians laid siege on this same fort, besieging it for more than a week. Having little effect, this body of Indians withdrew, but not before killing the cattle. A few days later, this same body of Indians attacked Fort Donnally, about ten miles northwest of Lewisburg until re-enlistments arrived under Captain John Stuart from Lewisburg.

On September 11, 1782, Fort Henry was once again under attack, this time by about three hundred Indians under the command of George Girty and a British company known as the Queen's Rangers commanded by Captain Pratt from Detroit. They marched to the attack in regular file, headed by drum and fife, with the British flag flying over them. A surrender in the name of the British Governor was demanded, and protection of King George was afforded. One by one, the dauntless soldiers of the fort, declined. The



attack continued for three days with the approach of re-enforcements under *Captain Williamson*.

In 1774 the Virginia governor, Lord Dunmore called out all of the Virginia Militia companies to purge the frontier of the Indian tribes. The settlers had suffered greatly with Indian attacks, massacres, thefts and the taking of their women and children as slaves.

Sources: Hening's Statues at Large of Virginia, Vol IX, p. 13, 149, 180, 181, 182, 339, 340, 588, 589; Vol X, p. 18, 19, 20, 26,27,32,33, 257, 258, 327, 328, 3219, 433, 434; Vol XI, p. 14. Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Vol 1, p 601. The American Pioneer, Vol II, pp. 347, 348, 349, 350. History of the Early Settlement and Indian Wars of Western Virginia, pp. 230-234, 279; Pension application #W6735, widow, Phebe, SC, Cobb Co. GA

### **The Grand Plan of Invasion by the British**

There was a grand plan for the invasion from the south by a British army operating out of East Florida under Lieutenant Colonel Mark Prevost. The army was to be joined by a fleet coming down from New York under the command of Colonel Archibald Campbell. But the army of Colonel Prevost was turned back in its first attempt before he could reach Savannah.

However, in his southward retreat he caused destruction along the coast by burning and pillaging. The Congregational Church at Midway had suffered British vengeance and was burned to the ground. Colonel Campbell's mission, however, was more successful.

He arrived in Savannah in December with an army of 2,000 aboard his vessels and landed near the mouth of the river to prepare to infest Savannah. The city was defended by *General Robert Howe* with an army of 600 men. Though outnumbered, he should have been able to hold the city, as it had excellent defenses in the swamps, however, he left one entrance open and the British were told about this by an old Negro with the name of Quamino Dolly. The slave acted as a guide for the British army and led them

through the one unguarded passage in the swamps to the rear of the American army.

The garrison was caught by surprise and the English chased the American soldiers through the city in a shameless route. It was an easy victory. *Over half of the American army was killed, drowned or captured while the British lost six dead, with nine wounded.*

General Howe washed his hands of Georgia and ordered the garrisons at Sunbury and at Augusta up the Savannah River, to join him in South Carolina. They refused. Georgians resented the General, but he was acquitted by a court-martial and relieved of his command of the Southern Department.

## Stories

*Henry Trollinger, Jr.* of Pulaski County, Virginia was drafted for a three-month tour of duty under the command of *Captain Abraham Trigg* and *Major Joseph Cloyd*. He was required to find his own gun, horse and ammunition. He marched through the mountainous country in a southwest direction for some time and joined *Colonel Campbell* who had a small number of mounted militia. Campbell assumed command of the whole, being about four hundred strong. Notes: Henry Trollinger, Jr. , born in Germany, settled on the Haw River in North Carolina in 1745 near a large saltpeter cave. He worked with his father to make gunpowder during the Revolutionary War before being called into service. Source: Pension W4087, National Archives.

*John Smith, Rifleman, Patriot on the Frontier.* The parents of Captain *John Smith*, Rifleman, established their home in the new State of Franklin, being parts of the North Carolina-Tennessee borders. Some say that this was one of the worst places in America to reside prior to the Revolutionary War because of marauding Indians. During the 1730s, however, settlement was encouraged in the Alleghany mountains of North Carolina and Virginia, and

land grants were issued for that purpose. Irish, Scot-Irish and German immigrants poured into the regions of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the North Carolinas. From there, they traveled the Wilderness Road through the Alleghany Mountains of Virginia and North Carolina. Their travels were fraught with Indian troubles, thieving, scalping and taking white women as slaves.

*John Smith* and others answered the call to join the Continental Army, Southern Campaign and removed his family from the western frontier to Georgia where he enlisted into service as a rifleman, for which he received land grants in Wilkes County, Georgia after the war. Smith had about fifteen children. Captain John Smith received bounty lands for his service. The deed below suggests that he came from Sullivan County, North Carolina.

One son, *Alexander Smith*, served as a Minute Man during the War. Notes: Captain John Smith, Revolutionary War Soldier, born in North Carolina, according to McCall's Roster of the Revolution. He died Wilkes Co., Ga. 1-1795; According to the lands which were ceded by the Creeks in Wilkes County, Captain Smith came from North Carolina bringing with him a wife and two children in 1773. He had twelve children, born from about 1760 to about 1791.

## NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina regulators offered the first armed resistance to British authority. In 1771; the first blood was shed at Alamance in the struggle for liberty. At Mecklenburg, on 20 May 1775, North Carolina was the first separation from the mother country. Then, the brilliant victory at Moore's Creek, prevented the junction of the British troops and the Scotch Loyalists, and foiled the purposed invasion of the province by Sir Henry Clinton. Thus, when the Provincial Congress met at Halifax on April 12, 1776, the North Carolina delegates of the Continental Congress were instructed to vote for

independence of all the colonies. At that time, one-third of all the adults in North Carolina were said to already be in the field.

## Stories

*Samuel Davidson* acquired land on the head waters of the Catawba River at the beginning of the war. It was there that he erected a frontier fort known as "Davidson Fort"; it served as one of the main outposts used against hostile Cherokee Indians during the War. Davidson was elected Captain of the Militia in McDowell's Burke Regiment and led raids against the Cherokees and local Loyalists. Notes: Samuel Davidson was born 1736 in Ulster and came to this country about 1739 settling on a land patent in Rockbridge County, Virginia. Davidson was killed in 1784 on an isolated Indian raid. Source: Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina, Vol 2, pg 98

Within a few weeks after the battle Moore's Creek, nearly 9,000 citizens of the colony organized in behalf of the common cause of Colonial independence. "The patriots derived an immense advantage from the victory at Moore's Creek. The North Carolinians learned to know their own strength. They had combated with success the Regularos and the Scotch, who had appeared to them at first so formidable; and in the space of ten days they had assembled 10,000 men full of courage and resolution."

Source: Botta's History of the War of Independencr, I, 324; Maryland and North Carolina in the Campaign of 1780-1781 by Edward Graham Davis (1892), pp 9-10.

### **1776. February. The Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge February**

At the beginning of the war, James Moore was appointed Colonel of the First Continental Regiment raised in North Carolina. He, along with Colonels Caswell and Lillington, were responsible for the brilliant victory won on February 22, 1776, over the Highlanders from Scotland under the

command of General McDonald. This victory settled the complexion of Eastern North Carolina for the remainder of the war. Although James Moore only commanded the regiment for a short time and he was promoted to Brigadier-General, others in the Moore families also fought on the American side: viz; Lieutenant Dempsey Moore, Captain Alfred Moore .

Moore County North Carolina was settled by Scottish immigrants who came over several years before the war. Most of its residents, however, were Loyalists. Source: Men of Mark, Vol. XI by William J. Northen

## Stories

*Hugh MacDonald* was born in 1762 in Scotland and emigrated to North Carolina along with his parents. I searched to see if he also took flight back to Scotland with his parents, but it appears not. His interesting tale of how he served in the American Army is no doubt the key to why he was not banished from American soil.

The fascinating history of the Macdonald clan begins in Sleat, Scotland. They made their name in history when they supported the Stuarts on the throne. Bonnie Prince Charles, in particular, who exiled and later returned to assume control of the throne, is remembered as having been sheltered and protected by the 16-year old Florence Macdonald. The clan, frequently chastised by British soldiers, lost certain of their estates. To escape further punishment, the clan (including Flora Macdonald) left the isles of Scotland to seek refuge in the American colonies.

In the year of 1771, just before the revolutionary war, a vessel containing the escaping clan of Macdonald positioned itself off shore from North Carolina petitioned the governor for land. (North Carolina State Papers) They were given some 40,000 acres in Moore County. This is where the hotly pursued clan settled.

The Scottish settlement in Moore County chose sides in the revolutionary

war. Unfortunately, they chose their tormentors, England, instead of the new country. That made them suspect for service. On the day that young Hugh was found in a field near his home and persuaded to join the American army, his father, in fear of being taken into service, ran off into the woods to hide. He tells how, when he was fourteen years old his father took him along to the Battle of Moore's Creek, where he was taken prisoner along with the others. But, like most privates who were made prisoners on that occasion, he and his father were set at liberty and sent home. His families political position he clarified : they were Tories.

"Notwithstanding this scouring at Moore's Creek and the just condition of our fellow citizens, we remained unhurt, as still, Tories as ever. The expedition took place in the month of February 1778, from which we returned and began to repair our fences for a crop the ensuing summer.

About the first of June, a report was circulated that a company of riders were coming into the settlement; and, as a guilty conscience needs no accuser, everyone thought they were after him. The report was that Colonel Alston had sent out four or five men to cite us on to muster at Henry Eagles on Bear Creek, upon which our poor deluded people took refuge in the swamps.

"On a certain day when we were ploughing in the field, news came to my father that the Light Horse were in the settlement and requested that he would conceal himself. He sent to the house of his brother-in-law to give him notice and ordered me to take the horse out of the plough, turn him loose and follow him as best I could. I went to the horse, but never having ploughed any in my life, I was trying how I could plough, when give men on horse appeared at the fence, one of whom, Daniel Buie, knew me and asked me what I was doing here. I answered that my father lived here; and he said, he wasn't aware of that."

"Come, he says, Come go with us to pilot us through the settlement; for we have a boy here with us who has come far enough. He is six miles from

home and is tired enough"

" I told Mr. Buie that I dare not go, for if I did, my father would kill me. He then alighted from his horse and walked into the field, ungeared the horse and took him outside the fence. He then put up the fence again; and leading me by the hand, put me on behind one of the company. We then went to Daniel Shaw's, thence to John Morrisons (the shoe maker); thence to old Hugh McSwan...here I was ordered to go home, but I refused and went with them to the muster at Eagles. The next day, Colonel Philip Alston appeared at the muster, whose men told him that they had taken a boy to pilot them a little way through the settlement and that they could not get clear of him.

Then, the Colonel personally insisted on my going back to my father; but I told them I would not; for he had told the consequence of my going with them before they took me...."

"One evening the brigade, being on parade, I felt a great desire for home and thought I saw everything in my father's house before my eyes. I got out of my tent and went away some distance to a fresh-running branch. The water, from falling over a large poplar root, had made a deep hole blow, and getting into the hold I laid my head on the root, which I believe was the sweetest bed I ever laid. The water was so cool to my parched body that I lay there until 10 o'clock next day before they found me, *George Dudley*, Sgt. Of our company, having crossed within two feet of my head without seeing me. *William Carrol*, who was in company with Dudley, discovered me and exclaimed: By G-d, here he is, burned to be an otter. He is under the water! Dudley, having passed me, turned back, took me out of the water, and carried me to camp. When the doctor came to see me, he said that the water had cooled my fever and that I had recovered, though he had given me out before."

After the war, the Scots of Moore County, North Carolina, now considered Loyalist traitors, were sent back to Scotland. There existed very strong

feelings against the Scottish clans. The Provincial Congress refused to grant the request for land grants of Edmund MacQueen in N. C., one of the emigrants with the MacDonalds, who came in 1771.

But Hugh was an American soldier, entitled to land grants for his service, which he received in the State of Georgia. Because of his family, he was refused land grants in North Carolina.

Notes: Thus, on March 22, 1785, Hugh McDonald received a bounty grant for his service during the war, being listed by Knight's Roster of the Revolution. He served on the Georgia Line, for which he received land grants in Franklin (1786), Wilkes (1785), two in Wilkes (1786), Effingham Co. (1787), two in Franklin (1787), five in Wilkes (1788), six in Franklin (1788), Franklin (1788, Franklin (1794) and (179&), Elbert (1811) and three in Elbert (1801).

Sources: A Certificate of Elijah Clarke, Lt. Colonel of the American Revolution, issued Warranted No. 639 to Hugh McDonald on 25 January 1785, certifying him to be a soldier of the Georgia Line. Hugh Macdonald settled in Elbert County, Georgia; Sources: The Genealogy of McDonald Family on GeorgiaPioneers.com. Search the "Genealogy Vault". Flora McDonald in History, Article by Dorothy Mackay Qwynn, published in Vol. 18 of the North Carolina Historical Review; The Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. 16; Roster of North Carolina Revolutionary War Soldiers; Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. 8, page 620-622; Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. II, page 828-837; Knights Roster of the Revolution.

Prisoner. *Edward Blackshear* served in the North Carolina Regiment, Continental Troops, at the battle of Moore's Creek. He was wounded in both hands by a British Soldier while acting as a scout, and captured by the Tories.

Privateer. *Dyonisius Oliver* served as a Captain of a privateer of Georgia; was with General Lincoln at Kettle Creek where he was captured and



imprisoned by the British.

Notes: Dyonisius Oliver was born in Virginia and died in Wilkes County, Georgia, a resident on Wahatchie Creek near the Stencombe Meeting House.vSource: Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers in Georgia by McCall, Vol. II, pg 13.

*Alfred Moore* of a prominent North Carolina family was sent to Boston to complete his education in 1768. Upon the arrival of the British troops there, he attracted the notice of Captain Fordyce who offered to procure him an ensigncy in the army. He declined. In September of 1775 he was appointed a captain in the First North Carolina Regiment which was commanded by his uncle, Colonel James Moore (later appointed brigadier-general in the Continental line) wherein he participated in the defeat and destruction of the McDonald's Royalist Highlanders at Moore's Creek. Alfred's regiment was then under the command of his brother-in-law, Colonel Francis Nash. General Moore was ordered to Charleston to assist in the defense of that city against the british. After the repulse of the British at Charleston, Moore's regiment was camped at Wilmington where it was put through a rigid system of drill and discipline before being sent North to join General Washington who was retreating through New Jersey in great straits. (March 1777). Alfred Moore did not join the regiment because of family issues, and resigned his commission. His brother, Maurice Moore, had recently been killed, his father died and the defenseless country around Wilmington commanded his presence at home. However, Alfred Moore made himself a thorn in the side of the British at Wilmington, so much so that Major Craig, commander, sent a detachment to the Moore plantation which plundered his house, burned all of the buildings, carried away all of his stock and left him utterly penniless and destitute. Also, Major Craig made every effort to kill or capture him, but having no luck, send Moore an offer to restore his property and give him amnesty if he would only return to his plantation and take no active part in the war. The close of the war found Moore ruined in fortune and estate; his plantation

was a waste, his slaves scattered and sold, and he himself without the resources or money to support his family.

Notes: In 1782, the General Assembly of North Carolina, in grateful remembrance of Alfred Moore's distinguished services, and in some part to compensate him for his losses and unselfish patriotism, appointed him Attorney General of the State (to succeed Iredell, who had just resigned).

*David Mabry* entered the service under *Capt. Green* in North Carolina and marched with *Capt. Fordice*, encamping at Great Bridge, about ten miles above Norfolk. He was then a mountain man under the command of *Colonel Nicholas Long* to go to the relief of *Governor Caswell* who had an engagement at the bridge where the Tories were defeated. Next, he served under *Colonel Malmady*, a Frenchman, and was at the battle of Guilford, rendezvousing at the Iron Works and put in foot armies of *General Greene*.

Source: Pension W17072

### **1776. March 2-3. Battle of the Rice Boats, also called the Battle of Yamacraw Bluff, Savannah, Georgia**

This was a naval battle which took place on the Savannah River, borders of Georgia and South Carolina. The Georgia patriot militia was pitted against a small fleet of the Royal Navy. After the British army was besieged in Boston (December of 1775), a Royal Navy fleet was sent to Georgia to purchase rice and other supplies. The Georgia government was being formed at the time, and the rebels arrested James Wright, the British Royal Governor. The British aim was to seize and remove supply ships anchored at Savannah. To prevent seizure, some of the supply ships were burned, however, the British managed to recapture and successfully remove the ships. During the fight, Governor Wright, who was confined, escaped and safely reached one of the fleet's ships.

### **Duel in the streets of Savannah.**

At the onset of the American Revolution, *Lachlan McIntosh* and *Button*

*Gwinnett* competed to lead the independence movement in Georgia.

One of the most valiant Generals in the colony, General *Lachlan McIntosh* came under criticism for his family connections, who were Tories in support of the English. Nevertheless, in 1770 Lachlan was a leader in the independence movement in Georgia and during January of 1775 helped to organize delegates to the Provincial Congress from the Darien District.

In January of 1776 he was commissioned as a colonel in the Georgia Militia and raised the First Georgia Regiment of the Georgia Line, which was organized to defend Savannah and help repel a British assault at the Battle of the *Rice Boats* in the Savannah River. He was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the Continental Army, charged to defend the southern flank of Georgia from British incursions from Florida.

During 1776 and 1777, McIntosh and Gwinnett, the Speaker of the Georgia Provisional Congress and radical Whig leader, were embroiled in a bitter political dispute. The dispute began when McIntosh succeeded Gwinnett as commander of the Georgia Continental Battalion. The two men represented opposing factions in the Patriot cause and Gwinnett was asked to step aside after his election was called into question by opposition within the movement. Despite this, Gwinnett went on to become a delegate to the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence. He returned to Georgia after his allies gained control of the Provisional Congress and succeeded in electing him speaker and commander-in-chief of the Committee of Safety. Hence, he began purging the government and military of his political rivals. His first target was *George McIntosh, a brother of General Lachlan McIntosh*.

Gwinnett proceeded to order General McIntosh into British Florida on a poorly planned military expedition which failed. Gwinnett and McIntosh publicly blamed one another for the failure. George McIntosh had become unpopular in political circles when a proposal was made by Governor John Treutlen to unite South Carolina and Georgia. That was when his

contemporaries accused him of collaborating with the british by shipping 400 barrels of rice down the St. John's River for use of the british. In January of 1777, *George McIntosh had been* placed in irons in the Savannah jail. Lachlan McIntosh, angrily fought for his release, finally obtaining it for 20,000 pds. [George McIntosh was married to a daughter of a prominent loyalist, *Sir Patrick Houstoun* and previously held positions of honor and trust. In 1766 he was a surveyor appointed by the General Assembly to lay out roads, and in 1776, a member of the Commons House Assembly].

In May, *Lachlan McIntosh (later General)* addressed the Georgia Assembly wherein he denounced Gwinnett, calling him a "scoundrel" and "lying rascal." Gwinnett retaliated by sending McIntosh a message demanding an apology or satisfaction. McIntosh refused to apologize and Gwinnett challenged him to a duel.

When there was no apolicy, on May 16th they met in a field owned by James Wright several miles east of Savannah. The men fired their pistols almost simultaneously, and both men were injured, McIntosh in the leg and Gwinnett in the thigh. Three days later Gwinnett died from his wounds. His last will and testament (the first to be filed in Savannah) is found on [Georgiapioneers.com](http://Georgiapioneers.com)

The following year McIntosh was sent to command the Western department of the Continental Army at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania where he planned a failed expedition against Fort Detroit. Afterwards, he was replaced by *Colonel Brodhead* and returned to the South where he joined *General Benjamin Lincoln* in Charleston, South Carolina. Despite the rumors, McIntosh served with distinction throughout the war.

Notes: *George McIntosh* died in 1779 during the siege of Savannah by the British. His estates were confiscated. Lachlan, his brother, desperately fought to recover the estates and titles, but was only successful in having some personal effects sent to his plantation on Sapelo Island. Lachlan, arrested himself by the British during combat at Charleston in 1780,

returned home to find the effects and papers of his brother, George, scattered about in unlocked trunks. Land grants and deeds had been placed in a small portmanteau trunk by the wife of George, and these were the only valuable assets retained by the family.

Many of the Scottish settlers in Georgia were Loyalists, declared traitors, and their lands confiscated. They retreated to Barbadoes. Source: McIntosh Genealogy by Jeannette Holland Austin.

*Jacob Smith*, born December 25, 1748 in York County, Pennsylvania, resided in Pickens District, South Carolina when he volunteered as a private under *Capt. Benjamin Few*, *Colonel Leonard Marbury* in Georgia's Regiment in Snow Camp, South Carolina. He was at the siege of Savannah, served under *Capt. Nathan Smith* while guarding the frontiers against Indians at Station Powels Fort. When Charleston fell to the British, he served under Capt. John Johnston; was at the siege of Augusta and 96th District. Source: Job Smith, pension #S21983, South Carolina, Pickens District, application dated 10/6/1834. Wife: Mary Right or Wright.

### **1776. June 28. The Battle of Sullivan's Island**

The battle on Sullivan's Island between the Americans and the British was interesting, if not hilarious! The British first attempted to destroy the rebellious colony of South Carolina. General Henry Clinton and Admiral Sir Peter Parker arrived in the Charleston region during early June. Their intention was to destroy Charleston. The British landed their troops on the Isle of Palms (then Long Island) near Sullivan's Island where Colonel William Moultrie commanded a partially constructed fort with the 2nd South Carolina Regiment and the 4th South Carolina Artillery, consisting of four hundred and thirty-five men versus nine warships of the British force which lined up to fire on the fort. The British had no success in landing a company of men on the Isle of Palms, so commenced firing. General Moultrie had a shortage of gunpower, so ordered his men to maintain a slow pace of their gunfire. Only a few officers actually aimed the cannons, firing in small

volleys, four cannons at a time.

The british ship "Thunder", anchored too far away, managed to land many shots in or near the fort, but they had little effect. According to General Moultrie "We had a morass in the middle, that swallowed them up instantly, and those that fell in the sand in and about the fort, were immediately buried."

Around noon the frigates Sphinx, Syren and Actaen were send on a roundabout route to avoid shoals. The plan was to take a position from which they could enfilade the fort's maining firing platform and also cover the route of escape. However, all three vessels grounded on a sandbar.

It seems that channel located between the two islands was too deep, which prevented the british from landing and to lose three frigates sinking in the sand. Meanwhile, General Moultrie ordered his men to concentrate chain-shots on the two large man-of-war ships, Bristol and Experiment. Most of the rigging of the Bristol came down, tearing off part of the britches, leaving the backside exposed. By mid-afternoon the british were running out of gunpowder.

General "Light Horse Harry" Lee, visited the fort late in the day and told Colonel Moultrie "I see you are doing very well here, and have no occasion for me!"

At the end of the day, the Americans only had twelve casualties and twenty-five wounded. The following morning the British were unable to drag the grounded Acteon off the sandbar, so set fire to the ship. Before the powder magazine exploded, a small group of patriots went out there in small boats to confiscate loot. During the Spring of 1776, George Mason and a small company of men marched to assist in the defense of Charleston. During the battle of Fort Moultrie (above), however, he lost a leg. Source: Hlstory of Edgefield County, South Carolina, pg 65.

## Stories

*Henry Boan* (of Chesterfield District, South Carolina) says that "he is the son, the eldest living child of *Lewis Boan* and Mary Boon. Deponent always understood that his father, Lewis Boan was a Whig and served in the War of the Revolution. Deponent has often heard his father say that he turned out as a volunteer against the Tories at the age of sixteen...Deponent also heard his father say that he served near Charleston on Sullivan's Island, Bull's Island and other places as a drafted soldier, a tour of six months. Deponent has also heard his father say that he served another tour, but how long deponent does not remember. That his father said in the time of this last tour he was in the fight at Betti's Bridge on Drowning Creek in North Carolina, where he was wounded and taken prisoner, and that he was afterwards paroled by Fanning the Tory Colonel who commanded the enemy at Betti's Bridge. His father was wounded in the thigh, four or five inches above the knee. Deponent has often seen the scars, one on each side of the thigh where the ball passed."command of Colonel Wade.

Source: Pension Application Of Lewis Boan, National Archives, Microfilm M804, Roll 277, Application #R971

*John Houston* was involved in many skirmishes and marches during the war. He first entered service in 1776 as a substitute for his father. After that tour, he entered again as a substitute for Thomas Pendarvis for one month. The battalion under the command of Captain Fullington marched the troops to Sullivan's Island where they remained for ten days, and he was mustered out. In March of 1779 he volunteered in Capt. Thomas Dugan's company, to the range of the Indian frontier. Later, he was drafted Major Lewis Gillum company, stationed at Cupboard Creek about two miles from Augusta, Georgia. In September of 1780 he volunteered again under Captain Thomas Dugan and was ordered on an expedition under Captain Levi Casey and fell in with General Sumter. "Tarleton coming upon us, attacked our rear guard, killed and took a good many prisoners." Houston

was dangerously wounded and taken prisoner; paroled near Christmas time. "December the 18, 1825, Clarke County, Georgia. . . I hereby certify that in the month of November 1780, I was a prisoner under Colonel Tarleton on the day of the action at Blackstock's on the Tyger River. . . in South Carolina." Mr. John Houston was brought by some of Tarleton's dragoons (or horsemen) and delivered into the same guard, very badly wounded. He at that time was a volunteers under the then Captain Levi Casey, then in defense of the American cuase." /s/William Malone. Source: Pension W3817. Georgia.

*Morgan Brown* enlisted as a sergeant in the third regiment of South Carolina in May of 1776. He marched from the Cheraws of South Carolina to Camden, then to the Ten-Mile House near Charleston. Thence to several islands along the coast of South Carolina. He regiment finally arrived at Sullivan's Island to await the arrival of the British fleet commanded by Sir Peter Parker. Afterwards, he was removed to Charleston where the Declaration of Independence was read and proclaimed to the people. When he returned home from this assignment, to his father's house in Anson County, North Carolina, he received a letter from Colonel Thomas Wade appointing him as a first Lieutenant in the 9th Regiment of North Carolina. The captain of the company was Joseph John Wade, but as several of the companies were not full, it was decided which officers were to march northward to do recruiting. After the battle of Brandywine, he was transported in shallops (a two-masted ship with lugdails) to Trenton, New Jersey and several other assignments. After arriving in Chester on the Delaware, he was sent with a detachment to reinforced the guard of two hundred and fifty British and German prisons to Bethlehem on the Lehi River. This expedition took up his time until the evening of the day before the battle of Germantown. Source: Pension S53063

*John Milledge and James Jackson* from Georgia, each about twenty-one years of age, decided to join up with General Moultrie's army in South Carolina. Their clothes were ragged and they had no shoes. Georgia was



under the control of the British and times were hard. The danger was from Indians, Tories and British in every nick and corner of the woods. They crossed the Savannah River into South Carolina. Some men came up in front of them and shouted "Halt!" But Milledge and John were not afraid as the soldiers wore American uniforms. But the soldiers thought that Milledge and Jackson looked like some spies which they were searching for. "You are the spies we have been hunting." "No," the young men replied. "We are not spies but soldiers from Georgia looking to join the army of General Moultrie". They were not believed and the soldiers prepared to hang them. Luckily, Major Devaux came up and recognized them. So, they went on to join General Moultrie's army. Makers of Georgia's Name and Fame, pp 66-68

### **1776. August 27-29. Battle of Long Island**

The British successfully gained this area in a battle against the American Continental Army. It was the first major battle in the war since the American Declaration of Independence on July 4th. After the British evacuation from Boston in March, Lord William Howe moved to occupy New York City under the protection of a British fleet in the harbour. General George Washington of the American Continental Army stationed one-third of his troops (more than twenty thousand trained soldiers) on the Long Island side of the East River where they erected fortifications; occupied by Major General Nathaniel Greene. Howe planned to attack by land from his encampment on Staten Island; on August 22nd, a force of almost thirty thousand British regulars and German mercenaries landed on the south beaches. When General Greene fell ill, he was replaced by Major General Israel Putnam. As British forces prepared for a final assault, a storm drove the British warships down river. General Washington used this opportunity to abandon Long Island.

## Stories

*William King* removed to the Western part of the state of North Carolina (now Tennessee) in October of 1774, near the Cherokee Nation of Indians. When the Revolutionary War came, the Indians leagued themselves with the British and killed, plundered and deprecated the inhabitants on the frontier; thus, frequent calls were made for the Militia to go out against the Indians. In July of 1775 King volunteered as a militiaman under *Captain James Shelby* to go on an expedition against the Cherokees at Long Island and rendezvoused at the mouth of the Watauga River and marched to Long Island where *Colonel Christian* fought the remarkable battle. Later the same year, King was employed by *General Russell* who had at that time the command of the Militia, with others to go out as a spy among the Cherokee Indians who had killed some of the inhabitants in the vicinity of Black's Fort. Source: Pension S21335.

### **1777 January 13. Battle of Princeton, New Jersey**

*General George Washington* launched a surprise attack in Trenton before entering his Winter Quarters. General Lord Cornwallis had left 1,400 British troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Charles Mawhood in Princeton. On December 30th, Washington crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey, his troops following on January 3rd. On a backroad into Trenton, he managed to push back a small British forces (Hessians) but had to retreat before Lord Cornwallis arrive with reinforcements. On the night of January 2, 1777, Washington repulsed a British attack at the Battle of the Assunpink Creek. That night, he evacuated his position, circled around General Cornwallis' army, and went to attack the British garrison at Princeton.

On January 3, Brigadier General Hugh Mercer of the Continental Army clashed with two regiments under the command of Mawhood. Mercer and his troops were overrun, and Mercer was mortally wounded. Washington

sent a brigade of militia under Brigadier General John Cadwalader to help them. The militia, on seeing the flight of Mercer's men, also began to flee. Washington rode up with reinforcements and rallied the fleeing militia. He then led the attack on Mawhood's troops, driving them back. Mawhood gave the order to retreat, and most of the troops tried to flee to Cornwallis in Trenton.

## Stories

In 1757 *Dr. Hugh Mercer*, a hero of Indian battles (see the capture of Fort Desquesne), held the rank of major, commanding the forces of Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River, and *joined General Fobes at Fort Duquesne*. It was at this fort that he made the acquaintance of *General George Washington* who suggested that he come to Fredericksburg, which he did. It was the onset of the Revolutionary War. First, he served as a minuteman and when Governor Dunmore removed the colonial store of powder from the magazine in Williamsburg to the British man o' war "Magdalen", Mercer was made Colonel (later Brigadier-General) and offered his services to the Virginia Convention, saying aloud "Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted country and the cause of Liberty in any rank or station to which he may be assigned." The following year he was appointed Brigadier-General by Washington to take charge of the troops at Paulus Hook, New Jersey. However, during the battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777, he was once again severely wounded, and while lying on the ground was beaten in the head. He died on January 12th.

Notes: Dr. Mercer, who was 1725 in Aberdeen, Scotland was part of the Pretender's army in the cause to bring Stuart to the English throne. He acted in the capacity of an assistant surgeon. When that cause was lost, Dr. Mercer left Leitch (1746) to go to America and settle first in Greencastle (now Mercersburg, Pennsylvania) where he practiced medicine. Source: Historic Houses of Early America by Lathrop, Great Patriots of the Revolutionary War. Source: Irvin's Life of Washington, Volume I, pg 285;

The Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell

*Benjamin Taliaferro* joined the Continental Army as a lieutenant, being promoted early to captain. His immediate commander was the famous *General Daniel Morgan* with whom he served in the bitter campaign of 1776 in New Jersey, wherein his company forced a british commander to surrender. When the British captain stepped forward in his fine uniform and inquired for the American commander that he might give in his sword, *Captain Taliaferro* hesitated in presenting himself, because he was without shoes or shirt and his coat was in shambles. However, he finally advanced and received the sword. At the call of General Washington, Captain Taliaferro joined the Southern Army, and after seeing hard service, was made *prisoner by the british at the surrender of Charleston*. When he was discharged on his parole, he returned to Virginia to await an exchange in 1784. After the war, Taliaferro settled in Georgia. Source: Men of Mark, Vol II by William J. Northen

### **1777 Sept 9-11th. Battle of Brandywine**

The Battle of Brandywine, also known as the Battle of Brandywine Creek, was fought between the American Continental Army of General George Washington and the British Army of General Sir William Howe. The forces tangled near Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. More troops fought at Brandywine than any other battle of the American Revolution fought in one day! The American capital was in Philadelphia and so the British moved on that city, forcing a rout of the Continental Army to withdraw to Chester, then Philadelphia.

On July 23, 1777, General Howe's army left Sandy Hook, New Jersey, across from the New York Bay to the southern tip of Manhattan Island, landing near Elkton, Maryland on the northern end of the Chesapeake Bay, at the southern mouth of the Susquehanna River. Marching north, the British Army brushed aside American light forces in a few skirmishes. General Washington offered battle with his army posted behind Brandywine Creek,

off the Christina River. While part of his army demonstrated in front of Chadds Ford, Howe took the bulk of his troops on a long march that crossed the Brandywine far beyond Washington's right flank. Due to poor scouting, the Americans did not detect Howe's column until it reached a position in rear of their right flank. Belatedly, three divisions were shifted to block the British flanking force at Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse and School, a Quaker meeting house.

After a stiff fight, Howe's wing broke through the newly formed American right wing which was deployed on several hills. At this point Lieutenant General Wilhelm von Knyphausen attacked Chadds Ford and crumpled the American left wing. As Washington's army streamed away in retreat, he brought up elements of *General Nathanael Greene's* division which held off Howe's column long enough for his army to escape to the northeast. Polish General Casimir Pulaski defended Washington's rear assisting in his escape. The defeat of the Americans left Philadelphia vulnerable, enabling the British to capture it two weeks. The result was that the city fell to the British for nine months, lasting until June of 1778.

## Stories

*Francis Hagan* enlisted in Alexandria, Virginia in the company commanded by Captain John Fitzgerald in the 3rd Virginia Regiment commanded by *Colonel Weedon*; served until 1780 when he was discharged from service in Philadelphia. Hagan was in the battles of Flatbush, White Plains, Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth. Source: Pension S36007

*Isaac Dehaven* enlisted in the army of the United States in June 1776 in Leesburg, Virginia under *Captain Henry Lee* of the Cavalry, and served in the Corps of cavalry under the following named officers as a corporal, viz. *Colonel Henry Lee, Colonel Bland*, etc. The night before the battle of Brandywine, DeHaven and others of the cavalry who had taken a parcel of British prisoners and on the day of the battle, was guarding them, and thus

did not fight in the battle. He went on, however, to fight in the battle of Germantown and several skirmishes in the vicinity of Philadelphia. That he was in a battle near Burlington, New Jersey, or between Burlington and Redbank, where fourteen of the Hessians were taken prisoners. He was in an engagement with a party of Hessians not far from Peekskill, New York on the North river, where he took the commandant of the Hessian forces prisoner, who was called a colonel, and where seventeen other prisoners were taken from the enemy; he was discharged at Bordentown, New Jersey late in the year of 1778. Source: Pension S8318

### **1777 Sept 19th-October 17th. Battles of Saratoga.**

These two battles ended the Saratoga campaign, with the Americans as victors. The interesting event here was when *Benedict Arnold* entered the battle, despite his being relieved of command. His horse fell after being shot, falling on Arnold's leg.

## **Stories**

*James Harris* enlisted in August of 1776 under *Captain Gabriel Long*, First Lieutenant *Philip Slaughter*, Lieutenant *John Harrison*, Second Lieutenant in Dunmore County (renamed Shenandoah) in Virginia and marched across the Delaware to join the forces under *General Washington*. The company was then attached to the Virginia Regulars under command of *General Hugh Mercer*; marched over the Delaware River under *General Washington* to Trenton on the morning of December 26 where they fought the battle of Princeton. Afterwards, his company went into winter quarters with the army of General Washington at Morristown. The Virginia Troops were then under the command of *General Stevens*. While in Morristown, Harris fell sick with the smallpox disease which was prevailing among the troops. His company was placed under the command of *Colonel Daniel Morgan* as riflemen and marched towards Brunswick where General Howe was stationed with British forces. Then the route was changed and they

marched up the North River as far as Albany from Stony Point where they sailed in sloops up to Albany and there joined the army of *General Horatio Gates*. The battle was fought at Saratoga. The troops observed General John Burgoyne lay down his arms on October 17th. Source: Pension S31726

*Benjamin Delaney* again entered service after the winter campaigns of 1777 and 1778, under *Capt. Hill* and and marched to guard the prisoners taken at the surrender of General Burgoyne, captured at Saratoga. They met the prisoners and marched them to Albemarle Barracks and there guarded them from December until April. Source: Pension S2527

### **1778. June 27. Battle of Monmouth, New Jersey**

The American and British forces clashed under the direction of Continental Army General George Washington and British General Sir Henry Clinton.

When Washington arrived at a nearby town on that morning of June 28th, he ordered his generals to attack the British. *General Charles Lee* was reluctant to attack, but as he advanced forward, he found himself drawn into battle. In the confusion, General Lee ordered his troops to retreat. Angered, *General Washington*, directed Lee and "*Mad*" *Anthony Wayne* to fight a delaying action, while Washington organized the Continental troops into a defensive position. The two armies fought in the heat all day long, and collapsed from exhaustion. Washington planned to resume the battle the next day, but the British troops under General Clinton slipped away after midnight, undetected. Some people referred to this battle as "the longest battle in the war."

### **Stories**

*Benjamin Hawkins* was at the Battle of Monmouth; and afterwards served in the War of 1812. Notes: For many years Benjamin Hawkins served as the Indian Agent on the Flint River in Crawford County, Georgia. His four sons, *John, Philemon, Benjamin and Joseph* were all Colonels in the Revolutionary

War. Son, Benjamin was a member of the Senior Class at Princeton when he was selected by General George Washington as a French interpreter on his official staff. The daughter of Colonel Philemon Hawkins applied for pension stating that during the winter of 1775 her father was a Lieutenant Colonel in Bute County North Carolina ordered to raise a detachment; in 1779 he was Colonel of Cavalry, and died Jan 27 1833 in Warren County, North Carolina. Pension Application of Philemon Hawkins S6957.

Privateer. *Dyonisius Oliver* served as a Captain of a privateer of Georgia; he was with *General Lincoln* at Kettle Creek where he was captured and imprisoned by the British. Notes: Dyonisius Oliver was born in Virginia and died in Wilkes County, Georgia, a resident on Wahatchie Creek near the Stencombe Meeting House. Source: Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers in Georgia by McCall, Vol. III, pg 109.

*Thomas Hampton* enlisted in the Army of the United States within the year 1777 with *Lieutenant Woolfolk* and served in the 2nd Regiment of the Virginia State line under the following, viz: *Colonel Brent and Major Quarles* were the field officers and *Captain Ambrose Dudley, Lieutenant Long and Ensign Triplett*. Next, the regiment was sent to Fredericksburg Virginia to Dumfries in Maryland where the Regiment was inoculated; from thence through Pennsylvania to New Jersey where the battle of Monmouth was fought. Source: S16842,

### **1778. November 22. Battle of For Morris (Midway, Georgia)**

*Colonel John White*, commander of the Continental and Militia troops at Sunbury, prepared to make a stand against the British at Midway. Midway had one hundred men and two pieces of artillery. *Colonel Screven* joined Colonel White with his twenty militia men and helped to set up an ambush at Spencer's Hill. Lt. Colonel Thomas Brown of the British Florida Rangers heard their approach, and recognizing Colonel Screven, shot him eleven times. Screven died two days later while a prisoner of the British.



Meanwhile, Colonel White forged an order from *Colonel Samuel Elbert* to retreat to where a large body of cavalry would attack Colonel Prevost from the rear. Lt. Colonel John McIntosh was detached along with one hundred twenty seven Continentals to reinforce the garrison there . As soon as Col. Prevost of the British Army discovered the fake patriot order, he feared that his forces would be cut off and defeated. Also he was given a report that British Colonel Fuser's force had not yet arrived at Sunbury. That is when he burned the Midway Meeting House in rebuke and returned his forces to St. Augustine, Florida, taking with him cattle, slaves and horses. Source: *Makers of Georgia's Name and Fame*, pp. 52-53

### **1778. November 25. British attempt to take Fort Sunbury, Georgia**

There were two hundred soldiers at Fort Morris under the command of Colonel John McIntosh. Delayed by headwinds, Fuser's naval force reached Sunbury after Prevost had begun his return march to St. Augustine. Fuser's 500 men off-loaded field pieces on Colonel's Island and moved them to the land side of the fort, thus occupying Sunbury without firing a shot. Thinking Prevost in command of the area between Midway and the fort, Fuser demanded the fort's surrender on November 25, 1778. Source: *Makers of Georgia's Name and Fame*, pp 52-53

When the British commander Colonel Fuser came to take Fort Sunbury, they made their camps round about. They made their threat by firing with their cannon. When Colonel Fuser made this demand for surrender, *Colonel McIntosh*, commander of the fort, sent back a bold message. "Come and take it!" Colonel Fuser had initially assumed that General Prevost's forces were still in the area. He must have learned that the Florida regiments had returned to St. Augustine, as he left Sunbury without making a fight of it. Source: *Makers of Georgia's Name and Fame*, pp 55-53

The British ultimately captured this fort in January of 1779.

## Stories

After the British took Savannah, a large force of redcoats were stationed at Fort Cornwallis (Sunbury). About one hundred and fifty of them attempted to sail up the coast to Savannah in five small ships, but the winds were against them. But they had to embark about fifteen miles south of Savannah and walk the distance. They hoped to slip into Savannah before the Americans could find them. That night they camped in the woods. When *Colonel John White* discovered the British were camped in the woods, he told his plans to the other American officers who laughed at him. But they were near enough to see the night fires and could see the men moving about. Colonel White and his men then built a long line of fires and moved his men from one end to the other, thus leaving the impression of many regiments. Then, they mounted their horses and galloped the whole length of the line. This left the impression that the American's were giving orders to the troops. Finally, Colonel White rode his horse at full speed into the British camp, going up to the officer in command. "Surrender! Surrender at once!" he shouted. "Do you not see all my men yonder? They are eager to fall on your men I have held them back for hours. I can't keep them in check much longer. Surrender at once, or they will kill you all!" At that moment, one of White's men dashed up to him. "Where shall we place the cannon, sir?" "Wait," replied White. "Wait awhile to place the cannon. The British will surrender. Go, send me six guides." White's six lone men rode up, pretending to be guides. The British surrendered. So it was that seven Americans captured one hundred and fifty British Soldiers! Source: *How Seven Captured One-Hundred and Fifty*, pp 54-56

Note: Sunbury, located on the coast of Liberty County, was a resort town and wharf, constructed mostly by northerners from towns in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, et al. There were some one hundred homes built along shore. In those days, plantation families believed that they could avoid yellow fever by going to the seashore. From it's colonial beginning, the

town served as a port city, so was perfect for occupation. Around 1800, a hurricane swept Sunbury off the map. Located nearby was the town of Midway, populated about 1754 by religious families from Dorchester, Massachusetts and Dorchester, South Carolina who introduced the first slaves into Georgia. One can read about certain of these families in *Children of Pride*, a collection of letters written by the Jones families by Myers.

*Henry Smith* was born in Brunswick County, Virginia, where he enlisted in September of 1776 with *Capt. Andrew Geter* who was commanded to raise troops for Georgia. Afterwards, he marched to Savannah where he served in Gideon Booker's Company, 3rd Georgia Regt., then transferred to *Capt. Nash's Company, Lt. Infantry, Colonel McIntosh of 3rd Regiment*. He was fighting a skirmish at Sunbury, Georgia when he was captured and taken prisoner, carried to Savannah River, and put onboard a prison ship for six months and nine days. Impelled by fear and cruel treatment and with idea of escaping to the American Army, he enlisted in the British Army where he served until September 2 when he deserted and made his way to army at Charleston, South Carolina. He enlisted on the Peedee River, South Carolina with *Capt. Rush* and was discharged at the beginning of the siege of Charleston, having served three months. After the war Henry Smith removed to South Carolina, then to Burke County, North Carolina and finally to Kentucky. Source: Pension #W9300, Harlan Co., Kentucky, application of Henry Smith dated 5/21/1836

*William Pardue* enlisted in Warren County, South Carolina, enlisted under Capt. George Hicks; he mounted his horse and followed Capt. Hicks to his command in Savannah, Georgia. Next he was placed under the command of Capt. Nash and shortly afterwards marched to Gulfshore, Old Town under a detachment commanded by *Colonel McIntosh*. He went was stationed at Midway, Georgia while the British were preparing to attack Fort Sunbury. The British attacked for three days until the garrison surrendered. Purdue became a prisoner of war; he was wounded on the side of his face, a ball

passing right across his face. The prisoners were taken onboard a prison ship where they were confined for seven months near Cockspur Island. At Savannah, he and four others were supposed to go ashore for the purpose of repairing a vessel. That is when they escaped. Source: Pension Jan 10, 1837, Lancaster, SC.

### **1779. January 9. The British attack Fort Sunbury, Georgia**

The British captured Fort Morris (Sunbury) under the command of Brigadier General Augustine Prevost led by Colonel John Cruger who assumed control of the region. *Colonel John McIntosh* surrendered the town and the fort. Ultimately, the British burned much of the town and the fort.

### **1779. February 14. The Battle of Kettle Creek**

Kettle Creek is in Wilkes County near Washington, Georgia; during the Revolutionary War it was considered in the backwoods. The militia companies of Georgia and South Carolina were in the region as a protection against the citizens; and more particularly, to prevent the British from capturing the port cities of Augusta, Charleston and Savannah. For this reason, the militia did not receive glory for their work. Nonetheless, it was the militia who decisively defeated and scattered a Loyalist militia force which was en route to British-controlled Augusta. Thus, this victory prevented the British from committing the local Loyalists to their armies, as they'd hoped.

## **Stories**

*The Escapades of Thomas Ramsey during the Revolutionary War.* The study of the pension record of Thomas Ramsey brings to question the number of miles he walked and the sufferings and hardships of the patriots during the Revolutionary War. Of course, all such pensions are worthy of reading, because these were our brave ancestors who sacrificed everything to provide a free America. Somewhere in those pensions are the true facts of

our individual ancestors who made history. Forget about the history books written years afterwards by persons who were not participants and which only provide but a thin outline of sketchy facts. Thomas Ramsey of Henry County first volunteered in 1775 militia in South Carolina, now Abbeville District under the command of Capt. James McCall. His unit marched to Ninety Six under *Colonel Andrew Williamson* and remained about two weeks when *Colonel Robert Cunningham*, afterwards General in the British service, came to attack. The troops quickly threw up a breastwork which they manned for two days before a cessation of war was agreed upon for twenty five days (November 1775). Afterwards, *Capt. McCall* was taken prisoner and Lieutenant Calhoun killed by the Indians. The command of the company devolved upon Ramsey who was in command during May of 1780 when Charleston was taken by the British army. As expressed in his pension, he had a choice. Either join the British, run away from the State or "lie out." He chose the latter and continued to hide until *General Greene* came through the back country a year later. He left his hiding place to to join Greene. He went with the company of Robert Cawther and beseiged Ninety-Six for five weeks until the British finally evacuated.

Then, *when General Greene* marched to the east of Santee, private Ramsey followed *General Pickens* to Eutaw Springs where they were joined by the State Troops under *Generals Marion and Sumter* where the battle occurred. The day before the Battle of Eutaw Springs commenced, two rifle companies were raised to protect the Horse (company) of Colonel Washington. Meanwhile, Colonel Pickens commanded Ramsey to be stationed on the right wing to the left of the enemy while his company remained in the battle until near dark, then retreat under a general order. However, General Pickens sent for Ramsey who accompaned him to General Greene where he was appointed the commander of sixty men to eye the movements of the enemy. Ramsey took his stand near the camp of the enemy where he remained burying the dead of both armies.

At the time of the battle of Kettle Creek, *Thomas Ramsey, along with*

*Charles Collins, D. Kate and George Barber* were acting as spies to ascertain the number of Tories then under arms and were marching to Savannah. Ramsey stationed himself on the declivity of a hill on one side and George Barber on the declivity of the other side. The Tories were expected to pass on the top of the hill, which they did, except that they had about forty stragglers who had fallen behind. But Ramsey thought that they had all passed and returned to the trail. The stragglers passed within fifteen paces of Ramsey unobserved. To save himself, Ramsey stepped aside and hollowed out to them.

"Boys, what are you doing here? *Colonel Boyd* left me behind to tell you the rebels are close behind." The Tories dashed off on their horses and left Ramsey safe. Then Barber asked him, "How did you escape?". Ramsey responded that "hell was never made for him!" The rebels proceeded to overtake the stragglers, loosing fourteen men but finding forty seven of the Tories killed. British Colonel Boyd was wounded and died that evening. After that battle, Ramsey continued defending the frontier until March of 1782 when joined the militia and marched to Bacons Bridge, twenty one miles from Charleston. He went on several scouting expeditions including through the Cherokee Nation over Cumberland Gap into the Tennessee Valley and down the river beds of that country to Cherokee villages.

*John Germany Heard*. The family was close friends with the Telfairs and Habershams, having been in the Revolutionary War with Colonel James Habersham, Colonel Elijah Clarke, Capt. John Dooly, etc., fighting around Kettle Creek in Wilkes Co., Ga. Apparently they had a close bond with Gov. Telfair. Source: In the pension application of *John Germany Heard*, son of John Heard, Sr., he stated that he was born 1763 in Columbia Co., Ga., but removed to Wilkes Co. when young, settling on Fishing Creek where his father erected a grist mill, and at the beginning of the war, erected a fort (Heard's Fort). He enlisted in 1779, the terms of his enlistment being that he would receive bounty lands, *a rifle and other equipment, but was taken sick at Savannah, and Gov. Telfair, upon hearing of this situation, sent and*

had him removed to Savannah and from there to Augusta where he was furnished with a conveyance to his father's fort in Wilkes County.

*Luke Morgan Sr.* fought under Colonel Elijah Clarke and won bounty lands in Washington County. after the war. Source: *The Georgians* by Jeannette Holland Austin, pp 265.

Zachariah Phillips owned a mill on Kettle Creek and raised ten children. He and his brother, Joel Phillips, also organized a church nearby. When he was away at the Revolutionary War, his wife was annoyed by Tories. On one occasion it is said that while she was washing clothes and had hung them out to dry, that a Tory came up, and seizing a shirt, started to run away with it. But the wife seized one end of it, and the Tory, holding the other end, both pulled . . . Source: *The Georgians* by Jeannette Holland Austin, pp 287.

Prisoner. *Dyonisius Oliver* served as a Captain of a privateer of Georgia; was with General Lincoln at Kettle Creek where he was captured and imprisoned by the British. Notes: Dyonisius Oliver was born in Virginia and died in Wilkes County, Georgia, a resident on Wahatchie Creek near the Stencombe Meeting House. Source: *Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers in Georgia* by McCall, Vol. III, pg 179.

*Edward Doyle* entered service in 1779 as a volunteer under *Capt. Levi Casey and Colonel James Williams* of the South Carolina Militia. "Capt. Levi Casey and about six of his men myself included attached ourselves to *Colonel Pickens'* Regiment and marched under the command of Col. Pickens in pursuit of the Tories—and on this expedition there was about three hundred mounted militia" and defeated a party of Tories at Kettle Creek in Georgia. The Battle lasted about one hour.

"The Tories were all mounted and it was said there were about five or six hundred of them, we killed several of them and took about two hundred prisoners and marched them to our encampment opposite Augusta at Liberty Hill and from thence Colonel Williams' regiment guarded them to

the Jail at Ninety Six and the Tories remained in jail." Source: Pension S32216.

### **1779. March 3. Battle of Brier Creek on Savannah River**

Brier Creek is a tributary of the Savannah River in Georgia. The battle was fought near the confluence of Brier Creek with the Savannah River when the North Carolina militia was surprised and defeated by British General Ashe. But two weeks earlier, the Americans had a victory at Kettle Creek, north of Augusta. The loss at Brier Creek greatly reduced the morale of the Americans.

The Battle of Brier Creek was fought near the confluence of Brier Creek with the Savannah River in eastern Georgia. A Patriot force consisting principally of militia from North Carolina and Georgia was surprised and defeated by British General Ashe. The Americans suffered significant casualties.

The battle occurred only two weeks after a resounding American victory over a Loyalist militia at Kettle Creek, north of Augusta, reversing its effect on morale.

## **Stories**

Jeremiah Dixon That he entered the service of the United States in the year 1778 volunteered for six months in the State of North Carolina under Captain George Faulkner and Lieutenant Seth Stafford was in an engagement at Briar Creek. He served six months and volunteered a second time in 1781 for twelve months under Major Redding Blount and Captain Thomas Armstrong in North Carolina and marched to join General Nathaniel Greene at the high hills of Santee in South Carolina where he was ranked in the 2nd Regiment of the North Carolina troops Colonel Archibald Lytle, Major Thomas Donoho and Capt. Anthony Sharpe. He fought at the battle of Eutaw Springs. Source: Pension S10565



*Captain Jared Irwin* (later Colonel) was at the siege of Savannah, Augusta, Camden, Briar-Creek, and Black Swamp. Like so many others in the throes of war, he erected a fortress in Burke County, Georgia for the protection of the people in the surrounding district. Source: *Men of Work*, Vol. I, by William J. Northen.

Prisoner. *Reuben Rogers* served as a private under Colonel Elijah Clarke at the battle of Kettle Creek ; he was captured by the British and held as a prisoner of war. Source: *Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers of Georgia* by McCall, Vol. III, p6. 197.

*Colonel Elijah Clarke (later Elijah)* lived on a farm in Wilkes County. He joined the Revolution at its beginning and made a Colonel. During the first battle of his service he was shot in the leg and had to return home to get well again. The British and Tories and killing and robbing the people of Georgia. As soon as Clarke heard this news, he buckled on his sword and took his rifle down from over the door, mounting his horse. He rode day and night, getting patriots together to fight the British. Soon he had one hundred horsemen carried long rifles; they lived most of their time in the woods and swamps. Clarke's army rarely slept in a house; they suffered from hunger, thirst and cold weather. They fought the enemy whenever they could, and whipped the British in a bloody battle at Kettle Creek. Life was so hard that many of Colonel Clarke's men left him. Once there were only twenty men, but Clarke went to work and raised three hundred more. Clarke was wounded four times; he was sick with smallpox for six weeks, but as soon as he was able, he mounted his horse and fought again. Once, when he was taken prisoner two idlers were set to guard him. He knocked one of them down with his fist; the other one ran. Source: *The Makers of Georgia's Name and Fame*, pp. 69-72

*James Larimore* served in the North Carolina Militia under General Ashe. He was disabled by a wound received in the right arm and another in the side during the battle of Brier Creek. He was shot through the body and right

arm was broken and rendered incapable as a blacksmith, "he not having the benefit of the smallest education." *John Dunlap* testified that he was with Larimore in *Colonel Archibald Lytle's* Regiment of Infantry and saw Larimore beleeding and one of his arms hanging down, and that the next morning after the battle he saw Larimore in a wagon and found him wounded in the arm and side; at the time his wounds had not been dressed. Source: Treasurer's and Comptroller's Records, Pension Papers, North Carolina Archives.

*Lieutenant-Colonel John McIntosh* served throughout the war first as Captain of the First Georgia Regiment on 7 January 1776, then as Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of the Third Georgia Regiment in 1778. On 3 March 1779, John McIntosh was wounded and taken prisoner at the Battle of Briar Creek.

*William Chambers* he entered the service of the United States as a volunteer when he was about twenty years of age for six months, in a regiment commanded by Captain Henry Smith, Lieutenant Henry Pinkle and Ensign Carter Hedgepath, under Colonel John Armstrong and Major Winston and General Rutherford where he remained with said Company in different places in Surry County. The company marched to Moncks Corner on the road to Charleston South Carolina where the British Army was then stationed, then up to the place called Two Sisters on the Savannah River. When the British left Augusta, they returned to Charleston with a detachment of Militia to rejoin General Rutherford. That on the way and before the detachment rejoined General Rutherford and fought an action at Briar Creek between the detachment of Militia and the British of Superior numbers and force who there attacked the Militia who after some fighting were forced to retreat from the British and crossed the River and then rejoined General Rutherford where this Declarant continued in the service with the Army until the expiration of the said term of six months for which he so volunteered to and entered the service as above. Source:

Pension S16078.

*Abednego Rutland* joined the military in October of 1778 in a company commanded by Captain Scurlock of Halifax County, North Carolina and Samuel Baron Lieutenant of Northampton County; there were three companies in the two Counties who rendezvoused at Halifax Court house and marched to the South and met with *General Ashe's* Army at or near Kingston on the Neuse River; marched through South Carolina to Charlestown, where the French Fleet had previously arrived and continued marching further South near the mouth of Savannah River where *General Lincoln's* headquarters were at a small town called Purysburg: then marched up the Savannah to Augusta, in Georgia, and joined the *General Williamson's* Army. "... the British were in possession of Augusta when we arrived, left the town that night and retreated to the South; in the course of three or four days we crossed the River and pursued about seventy miles, till we had reached the bridge at Brier Creek; which the enemy had burnt after they crossed it. As he understood the British went on to their Garrison called Ebenezer not very far from Brier Creek, and being reinforced, headed the Creek, and came down upon us by surprise -- where they attacked and defeated of us." Source: Pension S4170.

### **1779. May 13. The Burning of Suffolk, Virginia**

Smithfield, Virginia was a harbor for Patriots. It was first colonized in 1634 and occupied an Indian site called Warascoyak, also spelled Warrosquoyacke, which was first a county of that name. The town itself was established as a seaport ca 1752 by Arthur Smith IV. An area called "Wharf Hill" was established as a waterfront for industries and served during the Revolutionary War as a harbor for patriots to receive arms and supplies.

Note: Wharf Hill was the dock which was used in the "Show Boat" a famous drama of the 20th century. The famous landmark of the Old Brick Church near Smithfield, built ca 1632, features a graveyard spitefully vandalized by

rebels during the Revolutionary War as an insult to the Loyalists in the region. An interesting note is that during the reign of King George, Virginians resented the fact that they were required to attend church and pay a tithe in tobacco.

When it was learned that the British had arrived in Hampton Roads, the militia of Nansemond were called out to rendezvous in the town of Suffolk. Only about two hundred men were marshaled for the occasion, armed with as such weapons as they could procure from their own homes; a few of them having muskets and ammunition.

## Stories

The whole of the little army, headed by *Colonel Willis Riddick*, proceeded about eight miles on the Norfolk road, and camp in front of *Captain Murdaugh's house*.

Most of the inhabitants had secured their valuables and fled from their homes, while ruthless devastation attended the town. The british set fire to the town and nearly the whole of it was consumed. Several hundred barrels of tar, pitch, turpentine and rum had been left on lots contiguous to the wharf, their contents catching the blaze ran down the river like torrents of burning lava. As the wind blew with great violence from the wharf, the inflammable substances rapidly floated to the marsh of the other shore. As magazines exploded, a sheet of thick fire spread across the housetops of the town, igniting forest trees and flying like meteors in every direction. And finally, the british soldiers went out the White Marsh road to the residence of the colonel-commandant of the militia and set fire to his dwelling, house and out houses, destroying not only the public property but also storage barns, corn, corps, furniture equalling \$8000 to \$10,000.

"This immense sheet of fire, added to the vast columns of undulating flames which ascended from the burning house of the town... the explosions at intervals of the gunpowder in the magazines . . . ." Source:

History of Virginia, Vol. 4 by James and Giraurdin

During this expedition three well-mounted young Virginians, viz: *Joseph Riddick, Thomas Granbury and Thomas Brittle*, had been dispatched to reconnoitre the enemy. They were, however, taken by surprise just below Hall's Mill in Norfolk county, and made prisoners of the british; thence conveyed to New York where they remained prisoners for eighteen months. On this account, the forces under Colonel Riddick were kept ignorant of the numbers and movements of the enemy. As the British approached Suffolk, they retreated in haste, every man taking care of himself.

Notes: *Colonel Willis Riddick* (1725-1782) served as a county lieutenant in the Nansemond Militia from 1776 to 1780. The name of his home was "ReTreat", wherein the british the valuable plantation and buildings, including a large quantity of public stores consisting of about one thousand varrels of pork and beef. When he made his last will and testament dated 10 April 1781; proved 8 April 1782 in Nansemond County, he stated that he expected compensation for the burning down of his home in Suffolk by the Royalists. Source: *Riddick Family* by Ruth Armstrong Ross (1988).

## Georgia

As early as July 10, 1775, *Captain Bowen*, commanding a Georgia armed schooner carrying ten carriage guns and many swivels, manned by a detachment of fifty picked men, captured a British armed schooner arriving from London, at the mouth of the Savannah River. The British ship was commanded by Captain Maitland and had, besides other military stores, 14,000 pounds of gunpowder. 5,000 pounds were shipped to Philadelphia to be used by the American army at Bunker Hill; 5,000 pounds were kept for the military forces in Georgia and South Carolina.

Observations of a Loyalist: "It will be observed that the war which had opened in Massachusetts was steadily drifting southward. Great campaigns

had been fought in what is known as the Middle States, which continued to be the theatre of operations for several years. In the extreme South, matters were in a deplorable condition. Tories were numerous, and in many places civil war reigned. The patriots were so few in numbers that the enemy prepared a careful campaign for the capture of Savannah and the conquest of Georgia. Five thousand additional troops were to be landed at Charleston, and a strong force of Indians was to be brought from Florida and Alabama to assail the frontier settlements, while the commandant at Detroit was to send others to join them from the Northwest."

"General Prevost (British), was in command of a mingled force of regulars, Tories and Indians in East Florida. They committed many outrages and brought away an enormous amount of plunder. In the latter part of November, Clinton despatched Lieutenants Campbell and two thousand troops to invade Georgia."

"The troops went by sea and landed at Savannah on the morning of December 29th. The patriot general, *Robert Howe* of North Carolina, with less than a thousand dispirited men, hurried up from Sunbury, and three miles from Savannah, at Brewton's Hill, fought a battle with a much superior force, and was badly defeated."

"In the plight through rice-fields and streams, a hundred patriots were drowned and four hundred made prisoners. The others who succeeded in escaping took refuge in South Carolina, while the enemy occupied Savannah." (History of the United States by Ellis, vol. ii, pp. 524-525).

A fleet sailed from New York via Sandy Hook on the 8th of November 1778, for Savannah. The troops were under the command of Colonel Campbell of the 71st Regt. and the New York Volunteers were of the expedition. On the 27th of November the fleet, which had been detained by storms, at length sailed. "On the 24th of December we sailed into the Savannah River, and on the 29th the troops disembarked, and were carried in flat boats and landed not far from the city. The enemy (patriots), who numbered about eight

hundred men, did not make a long stand. Our loss was twenty killed and wounded. The rebel loss was eighty killed and wounded, and *four hundred prisoners*. On the 31st we started for the city and took possession of Advocate Farley's house, in which we found a fine library."

Source: Recollections of a Georgia Loyalist by Elizabeth Lichtenstein Johnston (1836), pp. 16-22; Extract from the letter of a German officer dated Savannah, January 16, 1779; Source: Men of Mark, Vol. 1, by William J. Norton

### The Preservation of Records for Georgia

During the war, efforts were made to preserve state and county records as they are a great worth to many. It was feared tha the British would destroy the records of Georgia. *So Captain John Milton* carried them to Charleston in South Carolina and put them in a safe place; then returned to the army. As the British prepared to take Charleston, the records were once again in peril. So Milton asked to be sent to remove me to another safe location. This time, he moved them in wagons to Newbern in North Carolina. Just in time, because the British soon seized Charleston. A third time, Milton moved the records to Maryland and left them there until it was safe to return them to Georgia. Once, when the British took Milton as a prisoner, they carried him to St. Augustine in Florida where he was put into a dungeon. The dungeon was a close, dark room of a prison, where he lay for nine months, scarcely seeing the light of day. Note: Milton was Georgia's first Secretary of State. Source: Maker's of Georgia's Name and Fame, 81-82

### Stories

*Colonel Hugh Hall*, an emigrant from Ireland, cast his lot into the service of the American Revolutionary War. As was typical of the process, he no doubt embarked from County Antrim, Ireland and entered the port in Philadelphia, settling for a time in Berks County with the other Irishmen

before moving on. After marrying in Pennsylvania, he apparently removed into North Carolina where he enlisted and served as Private on the North Carolina Line. Notes: The estate of Hugh Hall was discovered in Hancock County, Georgia. On September 2, 1811, Francis Lewis and Dixon Hall Sr. were appointed administrators of the estate of Hugh Hall in Eatonton. From the inventory of the estate, it would appear that Hugh Hall had found success in America as a planter first owning land in Wilkes County, 287-1/2 acres on Richland Creek. This acreage was a land grant for his service during the war.

### **1778. December 29. Siege of Savannah**

As the news of the Declaration of Independence reached Georgia, President Bullock read it aloud to a crowd assembled in a public square at the site of the liberty pole. But the celebration got out of control when a few ship captains and Tory merchants were ordered to leave the province. On July 24th, a Whig mob tarred and feathered *John Hopkins* and paraded him through Savannah streets to the liberty pole where he was forced to drink a toast to American freedom.

Another incident was mentioned in the "Recollections of a Georgia Loyalist (1843)" when the Sons of Liberty dragged Tory *Thomas Brown* from his home in South Carolina and feathered him for his open support of Loyalist principles, then paraded him for some hours through the streets of Augusta in an open wagon drawn by three mules.

On December 29, 1778 Savannah fell to the British forces and the rebel defenders were routed, losing 550 captured or killed. As Patriot forces were swept from the State, a bitter civil war ensued between the Patriots and the Loyalists.

Only a year later, during the fall of 1779, the Continental army with help from French forces, attempted to liberate the city from its occupation without success.



*Archibald Bulloch*, President of the First Provincial Congress assembled in Tondee's Tavern in Savannah in 1775, burned every house on Tybee Island to prevent its use by the British Seamen from the *Men-at-War* anchored in the Roads. The vessels had been unable to land at Charleston, and the British surmised that since Savannah was so poorly protected, they could capture provisions there. So they lay in anchor neareby. However, the Council of Safety, observing the ships, forbade the vessels to be supplied. *Joseph Habersham* interrupted the proceedings of Governor Wright on January 18th and ordered his arrest to prevent him from corresponding with the ships in anchor. The Council members fled and Wright was given house freedom upon his promise not to communicate. However, on February 11th, Governor Wright escaped, and later left for England on the ship *H.M.S. Scarbrough*, taking with him the state seal. Yet, even though he was exiled to a British man-o-war, Wright could not give up his command, and he wrote the Council in Savannah ordering them to allow the provisioning of the *Scarborough*.

In January of 1776 British ships with royal troops on board suddenly appeared off of Tybee Island.

In November of 1778, British Colonel Archibald Campbell and his two thousand troops sailed from New York, with the orders to subdue Georgia. The plan was to conquer Georgia and begin a march northward, taking each colony out of the conflict en route to Massachusetts. Meanwhile, General Howe retreated to Savannah and waited with his six hundred troops for Campbell's invasion. General Howe did not know the countryside, or the problems which the tides and swamps presented. Commander Campbell refused to use the main roads into Savannah. The American forces, divided and weak, panicked. While some citizens ran for the rivers and drowned, others left their units to try and protect their families in the captured city. However, British commanders Howe, Houstoun and Walton failed to maintain control of their forces. Campbell did succeed, however, in capturing the long-time merchant and patriot *Mordecai Sheftall* and easily

taking the city.

Landing at Girardeau's Plantation on December 29th, Campbell brushed aside American forces and pushed towards Savannah where he flanked and routed another American force and captured the city.

General Campbell was joined by Brigadier General Augustine Prevost from St. Augustine, Florida in mid-January 1779, and the two men began raiding the interior as well as mounted an expedition against Augusta. Outposts were established in the region, which strengthened the Loyalist cause.

Marching north to Savannah, Campbell demanded that the city surrender. But *General Prevost* stalled for time, requesting a 24-hour truce to consider his situation. He used this opportunity to recall *Colonel John Maitland's* troops at Beaufort, South Carolina to reinforce the garrison.

Meanwhile, General d'Estaing of the French fleet made no effort to guard the route from Hilton Head Island to Savannah. Thus, no troops blocked Maitland's route and he reached the city safely before the truce ended. Then, Prevost formally declined to surrender.

On September 23, *General d'Estaing and Major-General Lincoln* began siege operations against Savannah. Landing artillery from the fleet, French forces commenced a bombardment on October 3rd which proved ineffective. Despite protests from his subordinates, d'Estaing approached Lincoln regarding assaulting the British lines. Dependent on the French admiral's ships and men for continuing the operation, Lincoln was forced to agree. For the assault, d'Estaing planned to have *Brigadier General Isaac Huger* make a feint against the southeastern part of the British defenses while the bulk of the army struck further west. The focus of the assault was to be the Spring Hill redoubt which he believed to be manned by Loyalist militia. Unfortunately, a deserter informed Prevost of this and the British commander moved veteran forces to the area.

Huger's men advanced after dawn on October 9th, but failed to create the

intended diversion. When they reached Spring Hill, one of the allied columns became mired in a swamp to the west and was forced to turn back. As a result, the assault lacked its intended force. Surging forward, the first wave met heavy British fire and took significant losses. In the course of the fighting, d'Estaing was hit twice and American cavalry commander *Count Casimir Pulaski* was mortally wounded. Note: Casimir Pulaski of Poland fought for freedom on two continents and was given the title of "Soldier of Liberty." A large monument erected in Savannah commemorates his sacrifice while fighting for the city.

The second wave of French and American troops had more success and some, including those led by *Lieutenant Colonel Francis Marion*, reached the top of the wall. In fierce fighting, the British succeeded in driving the attackers back while inflicting heavy casualties. Unable to break through, French and American troops fell back after an hour of fighting.

Source: *Georgia and the Revolution* by Ronald G. Killian and Charles T. Waller, pg 36-37; 40-41; 54-55

## Stories

In September of 1777, *Jacob Mercer* enlisted in the war in Heard's Fort in Wilkes County, Georgia in the company of Capt. Heart, Regiment Colonel Dooly and Colonel Elijah Clarke for six months to protect the Georgia frontier and help to build a line of forts from the Ogeechee to the Savannah rivers. He was discharged after two months; however drafted 20 March 1779 to serve a tour of three months and marched to Augusta, Georgia and again drafted to serve three more months 1 July 1779, to serve under *Colonel Stephen Heard*; they marched to Savannah and combined forces with the French and Americans against General Lincoln of the British forces. Notes. Jacob Mercer was born 1753 in Currituck County, North Carolina and was a resident of Wilkes County, Georgia at the time of the war. Source: Pension Records of Jacob Mercer.; DAR Membership and Ancestor Roll;

Headright grant and bounty lands in Washington County, Georgia issued under certificate of Colonel Eliah Clark Feb 2, 1784, for 287 1/2 acres of land; Knights Roster of the Revolution in Georgia, p. 118; second certificate 25 Feb 1784 p. 129; Georgia Roster of the Revolution, pp. 314, 387.

*Daniel Dampier* in 1757 served in the 4th Georgia Battalion in the Florida Expedition attached to *Capt. Burris'* Company as a sergeant. He was at the battle of Savannah when the British captured it, then serving as wagon guard when he was taken prisoner and kept for seventeen days before being exchanged. Later on, he was in the battle of Stono, and then another battle for Savannah when it was besieged by French and Americans; when *General Pulaski* got his death wound. Source: Pension R2639.

Prisoner. *Isaac Fell* was one of the defenders of Savannah when it was under siege by the British. He was stationed at the Springfield Redoubt and lost an arm in that conflict; captured and placed on board a ship and conveyed to England as a prisoner. Source: Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers in Georgia by McCall, Vol. II, pp. 51.

*Major John Jones* of St. John's Parish in Georgia, was a rice planter prior to the Revolutionary War. He was the first in his family to respond to the call of arms and was a Major in the Continental Army. During the assault on Savannah in 1779, he was a soldier but thirty years of age serving on the staff of General Lachlan McIntosh when he met a soldier's death in the fierce assault on the Spring Hill Redoubt. Source: Men of Mark, Vol III by William J. Northen

During the Battle of Savannah 1778 *George Walton* was hit in the thigh by a ball and thrown from his horse. Then, taken as a prisoner to Sunbury. The British were occupying the coastal resort town of Sunbury in Liberty County at the time, and he was probably put on a prison ship.

Notes: George Walton, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was born in Virginia, but left an infant orphan when both of

his parents died. As was customary in those days he was adopted by an uncle who entered him into the apprenticeship as a carpenter. Afterwards, Walton removed to Savannah where he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1774. During the Revolutionary War he advocated the patriot cause and was elected Secretary of the Georgia Provincial Congress and President of the Council of Safety. In 1776 he served as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia, and signed the Declaration of Independence for Georgia along with *Button Gwinnett and Lyman Hall*. During the war, he served in the battalion of *General Robert Howe* and received a commission as colonel of the First Georgia Regiment of Militia. In October 1779, Walton was elected Governor of Georgia for the first time, a position he held for only two months. In November 1795, he was appointed to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of James Jackson. After the war, he built his home on lands confiscated from Tories outside of Augusta, called "Meadow Garden"

*John Murray*, Esquire of Christ Church parish gave an affidavit dated June 6, 1780 revealing that about the 8th of September of 1779, he was taken prisoner on his passage from St. Augustine, Florida by water; that he was then put aboard the prison ship "Languedoe," a French Man of War commanded by the Count d'Estaing, where amongst many others, the deponent saw John *Glen* formerly an attorney in Savannah which he was particularly acquainted with. *John Glen* entered into conversation with him; and amongst other things Mr. Glen's declaration and assurance of meeting with success on the expedition against Savannah the deponent expressed his wish to him that as he the said Glen expected to be powerful, he hoped he would be also merciful, by using gentle and lenient measures towards the friends to Government; to which Mr. Glen replied, "that it was not now a time to use gentle and moderate measures, but to make reprisals and to retaliate for the injuries which had been done in their persons and their properties". Sworn. John Murray. Source: Military Affairs of Georgia 1775-1793, pg 18.

Prisoner. *William Pindar* was a patriot who supplied the Continental Troops with provisions during the Siege of Savannah. When the British captured Savannah, they burned Pindar's home and made him a prisoner. He was sent to Nassau Island where he remained until the end of the war. Notes: William Pindar was born in Wales, died 1793 in Savannah, Georgia. Source: Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers in Georgia by McCall, Vol. III, pg 186.

*John Bone* enlisted 1777 in the Cheraw District on the 13th of May, in the third regiment of the South Carolina Continental line. He was marched to the west side of the Santee River about seven miles from Eutaw Springs. From there, he went to Charleston, then Ninety-Six District under Lieutenant Crowden to take care of the garrison. From there he was sent to the Midway Meeting House in Liberty County, Georgia where he served under General Lee. He was at the fall of Savannah when it was taken by the British on December 29, 1778. Afterwards, he fled to the east side of the Savannah River opposite the Two Sisters. At this place, General Benjamin Lincoln took the command and moved them to Purrysburg where they lay some time until the French fleet came up. Then, he went to Savannah and there, after a two weeks or thereabouts preparation, fought in the battle. Major Wise was killed and Count Pulaski was wounded, and afterwards died. He well remembers attending the funeral, but some said there was no body in the coffin. After the defeat of Savannah by the British, Bone went to a place called General Bull (or Sheldon Hills) where he wintered. Afterwards, the army went to Charleson; then Bone went to Smith's Plantation with the horses. When he returned, the British had so besieged Charleston that he could not get in. Thus, he remained at Orangeburg on the Edisto River until some time in April and was discharged when his term of three years had expired. Source: Pension S14980

*William Davis* was drafted into service in March of 1778 in Chester District, South Carolina; was marched in *Major Ellison's* Battalion, under the command of Major Ellison to Orangeburg Court House thence to the Savannah River, "and was stationed at Purrysburg on that River, from

whence the British who were then in possession of the City of Savannah soon drove us, we retreated towards Charleston, and in our retreat had two skirmishes with a party of British troops one at Pocotaligo, the other at a place called Coosawhatchie." Source: S31641

### **Americans Attempt to Re-take Savannah**

A year after Savannah was captured by the British, an attempt was made by the Americans, assisted by the French fleet, to capture Savannah, but it failed. During this attack where Count Pulaski lost his life.

### **Stories**

*Captain Thomas Glascock* of Virginia, came to Georgia some years before the Revolutionary War. In 1779, when Savannah was in the hands of the British, Thomas (and his father, *William Glascock*) were high up in the military service of Georgia. Thomas was a captain of cavalry in the Legion of Count Pulaski. In 1780, Captain Glascock was appointed Brigadier-Georgia. During the battle of Savannah, while *Count Pulaski* attempted to lead his men past an abate of the enemies works into the town, the Count fell from being shot in the groin with a cannon ball. Glascock recalled that after the retreat of the Continental troops, there was bitter mourning in his legion that the Count had been left dangerously wounded near the abates. Captain Glascock and several of his men boldly volunteered to return and rescue the dying soldier. The rescue was accomplished under the blistering fire and smoke of the British. Three days later, when the illustrious Polish patriot breathed his last, the young captain of cavalry was by his side, a place he had not vacated from the hour of the rescue.

*John Perkins* volunteered for the Georgia State Troops as a horseman in July of 1778, sent by *Colonel Elijah Clarke* to pursue Indians then in the northeastern part of the State. He volunteer again later in the year as a private footman to *Capt. Samuel Beck* of the Georgia Troops, and was at the siege of Savannah in 1779. Source: Pension R8111 (Note his application

was rejected; probably because he said he did not remember when he entered service, nor when he left).

### **January 1779 . Siege of Augusta by the British**

After the siege of Savannah, the British now planned to take all of Georgia. British General Howe was replaced by General Benjamin Lincoln as the Continental Commander in the South. The town of Ebenezer was under occupation. The German pastor, Christopher F. Triebner, who supported the British position, attempted to lead his Saltzburger congregation into general compliance. That enabled the British to convert the Jerusalem Church into a hospital, *destroying all the church records*. This village became a British garrison. Next, Fort Morris at Sunbury, Georgia, was taken, becoming a source of supply and prison ships on the sea.

With Augusta unprotected, General Campbell proceeded up the Savannah river and captured it on January 31, 1779, without the loss of a single man.

### **Stories**

*William Barron Sr., beheaded by Indians*, was born in Ireland and emigrated to the American colonies, and served as a Captain; wounded at Augusta where he fell into the hands of the Tories. However, British soldiers were not known to be nice. Especially, when during the Revolutionary War, a group of Tories beheaded Barron and putting his head on a pole, paraded it around Augusta for three weeks. It occurred during the battle of Augusta in September of 1780. While he was lying wounded on the battlefield during a flag of truce while the dead were being removed for burial. A Tory by the name of Grayson found him and removed him to an old plaza and as soon as the Tories learned that it was Captain Barron, a large sum of money was offered for his head. An Indian did the dastardly deed. There were many horrors which occurred at the hands of British soldiers by citizens and rebels as well. The only way to learn about the hardships enduring during those years of fighting for freedom is to read old pension records of



Revolutionary War soldiers. It is quite interesting to read their own words, as they describe the battles and events of the war. One begins to truly appreciate the price which our ancestors paid for the American Constitution. Source: Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers in Georgia by McCall, Vol III, pp. 22

*Joel Darcey.* During the spring of 1779, Joel Darcey joined the command of *Colonel John Twiggs* at Augusta, Georgia. While at Twiggs' Mill in Burke County when he was sent to get some corn ground he was taken prisoner by the Tories and carried to Savannah and put in prison where he remained from January to April of 1779. Darcey and a man named Moore ran into the woods, and, traveling by night, came to the Hudon Ferry on the Savannah River. He saw a man that he knew from Glynn County and this man told *Capt. Stephen Johnson* who he was, to set him across the river and feed them, as they were nearly starved. He then proceeded to go to Augusta to join Colonel Twiggs. The British had established a store at the Ogeechee branch about twenty miles from Savannah in order to trade along with Indians and Tories, which store was guarded by a British sergeant and twelve men. Colonel Twiggs took *Capt. David Immanuel* and *William Young* and about thirty men mounted on horses, headed for the Ogeechee River, captured the British guard, then retreated (with prisoners) up the river about four miles to Butler's plantation. That afternoon, they were attacked at Butler's plantation by *Capt. Muller* and *Lt. Swanton* with thirty-nine men. They then returned to their post on Beach Island, about one hundred and twenty miles from the store. Colonel Twiggs removed his family to Virginia and *Colonel Elijah Clarke* took command on the Tiger River in South Carolina. Colonel Clarke proceeded to attack *Colonel Brown* at Augusta, Georgia. However, *Colonel Cruger* came to Brown's relief from Ninety-Six, South Carolina on September 11. After being in battle throughout the day, Darcey went to visit his mother about six miles from Augusta. She said to him, "My son, you have been in many battles, and you are sixteen years old this very day." Joel Darcey had brothers also fighting in the war; viz: Joseph

Darcey was captured on Brushy Creek by the Tories and carried off to Charleston where he died on a prison ship in 1780 or 1781. Source: Pension S6888

*Robert Jordan* enlisted for six months as a private either in Capt. Francis Marion or Capt. Peter Horry's Co. in 1775, of the Second Continental Regiment. He was at the battle of Fort Moultrie on Sullivan's Island near Charleston; served as Sgt. of the Horse for one month and four months as Sgt. of Foot. He was at two sieges of Augusta; the first one was on the Little River in Wilkes County, and the second one was at Kiokee's Creek under *Capt. Dooly and Colonel Elijah Clarke*. He served under General Lee at the second siege of Augusta along with his father of the same name who was killed there by a short in the stomach. His fourth service was in the infantry, scouting along the Little River, and on the Georgia and South Carolina frontiers. Pension S31778

*John Robinson* first entered the service in the year 1776 as a Drafted Militia man for 3 months, he was commanded by *Captain John Lyles* is Colonel James Lyles under the command of *General Williamson*; he rendezvoused at a Fort called Eason's where they had a small engagement from there he marched to a place called Seneca River where there was a little skirmish with the Cherokee Indians. Afterwards, his company was marched to the middle settlements at the head of the Tennessee River where they had an engagement with the Cherokee Indians in which the Americans lost nine on the ground, twenty wounded. From there he marched to a place called the Indian Valley Towns which place they burnt to the ground, the Indians having previously evacuated the place. He re-enlisted again in 1777 and rendezvoused at Augusta, Georgia; from there he marched to the St. Mary's River. Afterwards, they returned back home to the Savannah River opposite Augusta which was in possession of the British. So, they went to a farm called Gaulphin, about fifteen miles from Augusta where they encamped for one month. Source: Pension S32497.

## 1779. June 20. Battle of Stono Ferry

The Battle of Stono Ferry was fought near Charleston, South Carolina. The rear guard from a British expedition retreating from an aborted attempt to take Charleston held off an assault by poorly trained militia forces under American *General Benjamin Lincoln*.

## Stories

*Elijah Clark* was first drafted in the militia in March of 1779 commanded by Captain William Hubbard and Lieutenant Samuel Henry of Charlotte County, Virginia. They marched to Salisbury where Colonel Burwell was next in command. The whole body then marched direct to Head Quarters at Stono Ferry South Carolina about 20 miles above Charleston. They here joined the division of the army commanded by General Lincoln, Gen. Butler was also an officer at the same place. Gen. Moultrie commanded in Charleston. An action was fought between the Americans and British a few miles below Stono Ferry under command of British General Prevost. The day before the battle, Clark was employed in a scouting party to go and take possession of a parcel of silver plate belonging to the Tories about ten miles above head Quarters. After the battle he formed part of a guard to conduct prisoners to Charleston. *Captain Edmunds* of Brunswick County Virginia commanded the guard. The deponent was then marched to Camden and there received a written discharge but has since lost it.

Source: Pension S10448

*George Darden* enlisted as a private in Wilkes County, Georgia in February of 1779, in *Capt. Cunningham's* Company, Regiment of *Colonel John Dooly*, and had various engagements with the Indians. He enlisted again in April of 1779 at Long Cane, South Carolina for four months under *Capt. John Cowen*, in the South Carolina regiment of *Colonel Andrew Pickens*. He fought at the battle of Stono Ferry; and afterwards marched to Savannah in *Capt. John Cowen's* Company; fought during the siege under *Colonel John*

*Dooly*. Source: Pension S16757

*Elisha Dyer* entered service when he was sixteen years old in Granville County, North Carolina during March of 1778. He served under *Capt. Abram Porter and Colonel Farrer*, marching to Brier Creek where he was engaged in a skirmish with the British soldiers at Stono. After that tour, he was a scout in the North Carolina Militia prior to Gates defeat near Camden. He marched to Cross Creek (now Fayetteville) and was put under the command of *General Carswell* and continued to scout until he marched to Camden. His father sent *Jesse Gaskins* to serve out the tour, as it was the sickly season. Later, he rejoined the North Carolina Militia and went on to fight in the battle of Guildford. Source: History of Hart County, pp 240.

*John Barry* enlisted for three years, serving as a private in Captain Cunningham's Company, Colonel Elbert's 2nd Georgia Regiment; later enlisting at Rogers Fort above Augusta serving under Lieutenant Baugh and Captain Smith. He was in the battles of Brier Creek, Stono Ferry, Ogeechee and Savannah, in which he was taken prisoner, placed on a British prison ship from whence he made his escape. Source: Pension S39163

### **1779. July 15-19. The Storming of Stony Point on the Hudson River**

Stony Point is a hill which projects into the Hudson River, several miles below West Point. The American army had occupied and partially fortified it, but in the face of a strongly fortified British garrison, abandoned it. During the summer of 1779, *General Washington* planned to capture it, and entrusted the scheme to *Mad Anthony Wayne* who led twelve hundred chosen men to march single file over mountains and through morasses. The assault occurred before daylight by soldiers who depended solely on the bayonet; not a gun was fired by them. The Americans were divided into two columns - one hundred and fifty volunteers led by Lt-*Colonel Flenry* and *Major Posey* formed to the right; one hundred soldiers under Major Posey formed the van-guard on the right, and one hundred under *Major Stewart*, the van-guard to the left. These men removed the abatis and other

obstructions. Colonel Fleury was the first to enter the fort and strike the British flag and Major Posey sprang to the ramparts and shouted "The fort is our own!" *General Charles Lee* declared that the storming of Stony Point was the most brilliant achievement he was acquainted with in history. There was a goodly number of American soldiers tried for stealing plunder and other personal insults during this battle.

## Stories

*Colonel Christian Febiger* was a native of Sweden; he was with Benedict Arnold in Quebec and conspicuous at Stony Point and Yorktown. After the war, he was treasurer of Pennsylvania. Source: Annals of Augusta County, Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp. 266

*Chevalier and Viscount Louis de Fleury*, Lt-Colonel, was a Frenchman and a Marshal of France at the time of his death. He received thanks of Congress and a silver medal for his conduct at Stony Point. Source: Annals of Augusta County, Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp. 266

*Major Thomas Posey*, later General, was from Spotsylvania County, Virginia. Source: Annals of Augusta County, Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp. 266.

August 1779. *Colonels Meggs and Butler* and *Majors Hull and Murphy* to attend headquarters to receive their dividend of money arising from the sale of plunder taken at the storming of Stony Point, July 15, 1779. Source: Annals of Augusta County, Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp. 268.

August 24th. Court-martial held whereof Colonel Putnam was president, *Lieutenant Smith* of Putnam's regiment was tried upon the charge of taking several articles of plunder from a soldier the night of the storm of Stony Point; he was acquitted. Source: Annals of Augusta County, Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp. 268.

*Lieutenant Maynard* of the Massachusetts regiment was tried by court-martial August 30th on charges preferred by Lt-Colonel Fleury of disobedience to orders, want of respect to a field officer, and hindering him from visiting the night-guard. Maynard was the officer on duty and detained Fleury a prisoner all night. The court found him guilty, and sentenced him to be privately reprimanded by the General. Source: Annals of Augusta County, Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp. 268.

### **1780. March 12. The Fall of Charleston.**

The fall of Charleston occurred on May 12, 1780, was perhaps the worst defeat Americans suffered during the entire Revolution. Subsequent British victories at the Waxhaws, Camden, and Fishing Creek eliminated much of the southern Continental army and made the British confident that the South was theirs. Events in the North and South led to a feeling of Patriot desperation by the summer of 1780.

In December 1779, the British Commander-in-Chief in America, General Sir Henry Clinton, left New York City with a fleet of ninety troop ships, fourteen warships, and more than 13,500 soldiers and sailors and sailed for Savannah, Georgia. The plan was to rendezvous with Lieutenant Colonel Mark Prevost and march overland to Charleston, South Carolina. They arrived in March of 1780.

Unfortunately, the American troops, serving under the command of *General Benjamin Lincoln*, were greatly outnumbered. Also, British warships had no difficulty running over Fort Moultrie in the Charleston harbor, creating no escape for the Americans.

Perusing the impending disaster, *General Lincoln* offered to surrender the city if his men were allowed to leave unharmed. But Clinton stubbornly refused to accept these terms and resumed his artillery bombardment. After two weeks of bombardment, the British moved on Charleston. Clinton demanded an unconditional surrender from General Lincoln. When

Lincoln once again refused, Clinton ordered the city bombed with heated shot. Thus, with the city burning, *General Clinton* had no choice but to accept. The cost was 5,000 men, almost an entire army.

Just before the surrender, *Colonel Pinckney* fled Charleston with South Carolina Governor *John Rutledge*. Their intention was to carry on a state government in exile in North Carolina. Colonel Pinckney, however, returned to Charleston and swore loyalty to British authority.

## Stories

*David Boyd* enlisted in Culpeper County, Virginia under Captain Ladsen, and afterwards marched to Charleston, S. C. where he served under Colonel Pinckney. After Pinckney escaped to North Carolina, Boyd was transferred to *Capt. Clarke's Co.*, going to Augusta, Georgia when the American militia companies took to the backwoods to distract the British at Charleston from seizing Augusta. Boyd married Sarah Dabney (also referred to as Sarah Cauthorn), and both of them died 1823 or 1824 in Tattnall Co., Georgia. In 1856, their only surviving children, Adin Boyd, age 52 and Blanche Jones, age 68, residents of Lowndes Co., Georgia, applied for pension for the service of his father. Rejected. Source: Revolutionary War Pension of David Boyd, R1085.

*John Bradshaw* was born 1763 in Goochland County, Virginia. He enlisted in 1778 and served three months as a private in *Capt. Curds* County of Militia guarding prisoners at the Albemarle Barracks. He enlisted again in 1779 for 1-1/2 years in the Virginia Troops, *Capt. Tarlton Payne*, then *Capt. Gray* of *Colonel Parker's* First Virginia Regiment. Later, he enlisted in *Capt. Hugh Woodson*, *Colonel Abraham Buford's* regiment, and was taken prisoner at the siege of Charleston, but escaped and reached home in June of 1781. He enlisted again in August of 1781, for six months in *Capt. Dudley's* Company, *Colonel Charles Dabney's* Virginia Regt., and was discharged at Yorktown. Source: Pension of John Bradshaw, S15760, of Goochland County dated

8/20/1832.

Prisoner. *Daniel Stewart*, in commands of *Sumter and Marion*, was wounded by a sabre and captured at Pocataligo, South Carolina and carried to the prison ship in Charleston from which he made his escape through the port holes one stormy night with eight others. He was pulled through by his companions and, being a large man, was seriously injured. He suffered the remainder of the war from the injury to his shoulders, yet was active in service to the end. When the war ended and he returned to his home, he was again called into service to command a regiment against the Indians, who were robbing the settlers along the coast of their cattle and hores, pillaging houses and murdering families. His territory extended from the Savannah River to Florida. Source: *Men of War*, Vol. I, by William J. Northen.

*Arthur Connor*, taken prisoner at Charleston. Ellena Conner, aged 85 years, the widow of *Arthur Connor* applied for his pension in 1842, Buckingham County, Virginia. She remembered that he was in the battle of Charleston, South Carolina and suffered and endured many hardships and privations. She had in her possession a certificate signed by *James Fraser* dated at Charlestown 10th September 1781.

"This is to Certify that Arther Connor has been regularly Exchanged for one of the One Hundred & Ninety one Continental Prisoners as Specified in *Major Edmund Massingbird Hyrne* BLWt1478:400] Certificate Dated the 30th June Last. Charleston 10th September 1781. James Fraser, ommander of Prisoners." The affidivit of *Major Samuel Baldwin* of the County of Prince Edward Va. (aged 78 years) who states that he was raised in the same county and neighborhood with Arther Conner Deceased who died several years ago; and that he enlisted as a Regular in the Revolutionary War under *Capt John Morton* [pension application S9035] about the year seventeen hundred and seventy seven or eight and served out the time for which he enlisted and returned to the same county after the expiration of his service



and lived until he the said Arther Conner moved to Buckingham [signed]  
Samuel Baldwin. '

Notes: Edmund Massingbird Hyrne referred to in the certificate of prisoner exchange was Aide-de-Camp to *General Nathanael Greene*. James Fraser may have been the British Captain of that name in the 76th Regiment of Foot at Charleston, where several thousand Continental soldiers were surrendered on 12 May 1780 and held until the summer of 1781.

Arrangements for exchange of most of those prisoners were finalized 3 May 1781, so the "One Hundred & Ninety one Continental Prisoners" referred to in the certificate may have been a separate group. The statement that Arther Conner was exchanged for a Continental prisoner seems to have been an error, with "for" written in place of as. Source: Pension Application of Arthur Conner W6733 Ellena Conner VA

Prisoner. Taken prisoner during the siege of Charleston was *David Cordoza* was born in New York City in 1753, a record of his birth in the Archives of Hebrew Congregation. He removed to Charleston, South Carolina in 1700, thereafter enlisting in the Continental Army in 1778 as Sgt-Major. He was at the siege of Savannah in 1779 and siege of Charleston where he was taken prisoner. Cordoza served with *Colonel Maurice Simmonds, Lt. Colonel Jacob Read, Major Alexander Moultrie, Capt. Peter Boquet, First Lt. William Graham, 2nd Lt. Phillip Winn, 3rd Lt. John Smith*. Source: Pension #W20830, Mrs. Sarah Cardoza, widow, aged 73, Charleston, South Carolina, 1832.

Prisoner. *John Jordan*, another soldier taken prisoner during the siege of Charleston, enlisted as a Caded in February of 1776, in *Capt. Samuel Jordan Cabell's* Rifle Co. and served a Lieutenant in *Colonel Daniel Morgan's* Virginia Regiment. He fought in the battles of Trenton and Princeton; was the Capt. of Burgoyne and Edge Hill where he was severely wounded in the knee and ill for several months afterwards. When he recovered, he returned to his command in South Carolina, and was taken prisoner at

Charleston. After being exchanged, he serve as Captain in *Colonel Posey's* Virginia regiment until June 23, 1782 when he was discharged at Savannah, Georgia and given a Disability pension on December 14, 1811. In 1827 Jordan resided in Albemarle County, Virginia, aged 68 years. Source: Revolutionary War Pension of John Jordan S38098, Albemarle County, Virginia dated 12/14/1811.

*Asa Wright* volunteered May 16th, 1778. He then marched from Pittsburgh to Charleston, South Carolina. Immediately after he arrived at Charleston, the city was besieged by the British. The British forces then fell back. The American forces marched against them and the battle of Stono ensued. He was wounded in this battle. Shot in the left leg by a musket ball. He was then in the hospital near Charleston. When he recovered his tour of nine months for which he first volunteered had expired. He then substituted himself for *John Brothers* for three months under the command of Captain Russell. He was at the Siege of Ninety Six under General Green. He then marched to Eutaw and was in the battle of that place. The term of three months which he served and substituted for *John Brothers* now expired and he again took the place of *John Payne* for three months. He then marched to Lister's Ferry. He was then furloughed and went with five hundred prisoners British and Tories to the Barracks in Virginia. Source: General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service *Asa Wright*, File Designation

Prisoner. *John Byron* entered the war as a substitute for Thomas Bradford about six weeks before Charleston surrendered. He served under Colonel Tinner and Captain Howell Rose, General Lachlan McIntosh Brigade of Militia and marched from Granville County, North Carolina directly to Charleston; he was delayed one week on the Cooper River to build a fort at Lempriere Point commanded by Colonel Francis de Malmedy, Marquis of Bretagne, a frenchman who was killed in a duel by an American officer. Byron was taken prisoner at Charleston and remained a prisoner eight days

before being paroled and permitted to go home. Pension S30910.

*John Adair.* "I do hereby certify that in the month of April or May 1780, Charles town having been surrendered to the Enemy, with all the regular Troops under the command of General Lincoln and the Govr. of the State having fled from the State, there being then no legal authority in the State and the British Troops under the command of Colonel Banastre Tarleton, Rawdon and other officers, were marching through and taking possession of all parts of the state about three hundred men who had fled from the Enemy of whom I was one did assemble in North Carolina where we had fled, and enter into a solemn obligation to place themselves under the command of General Thomas Sumter and to continue in a body and serve under his command until the war was at an end, or until their services were no longer [sic, longer] necessary, they were to find their own horses and arms, cloathing [sic, clothing] and all necessaries—It being absolutely necessary that they should act on horse back they immediately returned into South Carolina and made their first attack on a party of British and Tories amounting to between five and six hundred men (commanded by Capt. Christian Huck of the Horse and Colonel James Ferguson of the Camden District loyalist Militia who commanded the Torys at Williamson's plantation this engagement was known alternatively as the Battle of Williamson's Plantation, the Battle of Brattonsville, and the Battle of Huck's Defeat, July 12, 1780)—the Enemy were defeated—Hook [sic, Huck] & Ferguson both killed and a Capt. Adamson of Colonel Henry Rugeley's Regiment] (who commanded the British Infantry) wounded and taken with between thirty and forty men—our numbers increased daily after this action and two or three weeks after, we were led to an attack on a British Garrison at Rocky Mount [July 30, 1780] but the General Sumter finding the works too strong to be taken without cannon (of which he had none) he abandoned the enterprise and eight days after (having a reinforcement of 30 men from North Carolina under a Coll. Ervin [Robert Irwin] he attacked a strong British force at the hanging Rock (August 6, 1780)—this I believe was

the hardest fought Battle during the war." Source: Pension application of John Adair 1 W2895 Catherine Adair f75SC

*James Kincaid* first belonged to the company of *Colonel James Johnson* and went on an expedition against the Cherokee Indians to what was called the Valley Towns in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The tour lasted about four months. He next enlisted as a substitute in the place of *Frederick Rhoads* to Charleston South Carolina serving about four months in the Militia at Charleston. The city went under siege by Lord Cornwallis and Sir Henry Clinton. That his commander, *General Benjamin Lincoln*, seeing that he would be compelled to surrender, gave leave to his Militia to escape. Between four and five hundred men made their escape from the city, and Charleston surrendered a few days later. Source: Pension S7109.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

There were over two hundred battles and skirmishes fought between the Americans and British in South Carolina. Only a few are re-counted here.

Suffice it to say that a number of sanguinary orders were faithfully carried out by Tarleton, Rawdon, Balfour, Brown and Cunningham. These british commanders demonstrated their fitness to enact bloody scenes smutty black and heart rendering.

Locals help to supply goods to the Americans. Ludwig Boatner who furnished a wagon team which was pressed into the Continental Service. It was for the use of the State; also for the hire of five wagons of flour and bacon. According to old Governor Rutledge, when at Orangeburgh, said supplies were for the use of the militia and amounted to 282 pounds sterling.

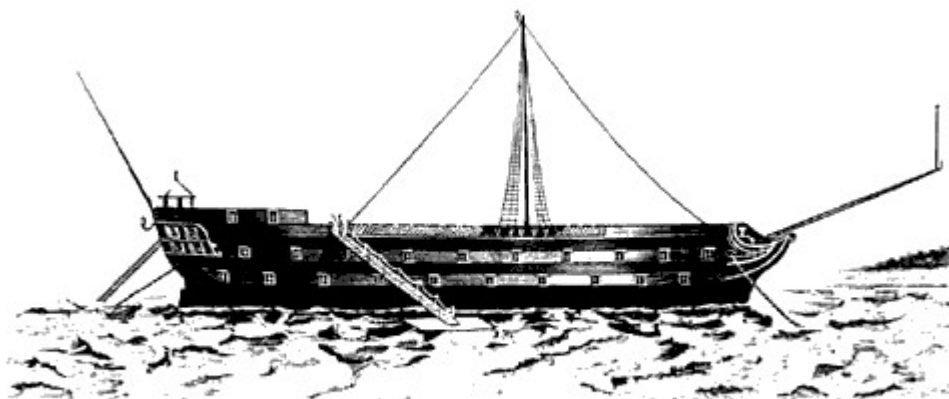
Notes: Ludwig Boatner, the son of Ludwig Boatner, was born 1724 in Germany and died 1802 in Edgefield County, South Carolina. The Boatner plantation of 150 acres of land on High Hill Creek and was gained by a

warrant dated 1755. During 1755, the Cherokee Indians caused grief in the district and the new governor, William Lyttleton, called up the regiments. Boatner went to Charleston where he was hired by Lieutenant Lachlan Shaw along with his wagon and five horses, being paid five pounds per day. Later, he sued the Shaw estate for 150 pounds due him. In 1786 Boatner petitioned for 450 acres of land in Colleton County (later Edgefield), granted March 1787. In 1772, Boatner had acquired a plantation located on the eastern bank of the Broad River in Fairfield County. Source: Batner, Botner, Bothner, Vol. I.

## New York

### **The British Prison Ship "Jersey"**

Eight thousand prisoners were listed onboard the ship "Jersey"; a list of names are available to members of the website, [VirginiaPioneers.net](http://VirginiaPioneers.net) under "Revolutionary War."



THE BRITISH PRISON SHIP "JERSEY"

*Anchored in Wallabout Bay, adjoining the present site of the Brooklyn Navy Yard*

### **Chatham, New York. "St. Lucia" Prison Ship**

On January 31, 1782, Boston newspaper The Independent Chronicle and the Universal Advertiser reported, "Last week a cartel arrived at Chatham (New York), from St. Lucia, with a number of prisoners, in a very emaciated condition."

## Charleston, South Carolina

### **The Disappearance of British Prison Ship "Pack Horse"**

A cargo of American prisoners onboard the ship "Pack Horse" were anchored in Charleston, South Carolina during the Revolutionary War. It was not an uncommon practice for the British to crowd Americans into the hold of the ship, shackled in chains, beaten and starving. The British occupied Charleston during the hot months of summer, thus making survival more torturous. Suddenly, during August of 1782, it disappeared. No one really knows what happened to it.

However, the following story of a soldier named *Clement Hancock* who was slaughtered on that ship on May 17, 1781. He was listed as killed in the source listed below.

Source: South Carolinians of the Revolution by Ervin.

### **The Torbay Prison Ship.**

American prisoners were onboard the "Torbay" vessel during May of 1781 in the Charleston harbor.

### **1780. March 29-May 12. The Fall of Charleston**

#### Stories

*James McDaniels* said in his pension that the British performed a predawn attack on his company on April 14th; they were on the outskirts of Charleston at the time under General Isaac Huger. The entire group was defeated and scattered by the British. McDaniels went on to fight in the battle of Camden on August 16, 1780, a handy defeat for the British army. McDaniels' commanding officer, Colonel Isaacs, was captured along with General Rutherford. Source: Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina, Vol 2, pg . 186.

*General Richard Richardson* had a long career in the military. He was a Colonel in the Craven County, NC Regiment during the Cherokee War

1760-1761; commanded a militia in the campaigns against the Tories at Ninety-Six; was at the capitulation by redcoat General Lincoln of Charleston in 1780 where he was captured and sent to St. Augustine as a prisoner of war. His health broken, the old seventy-six year old gentleman was eventually paroled and sent home. While a prisoner he was offered titles and offices by Lord Cornwallis, but replied "I have, from the very best convictions of my mind, embarked in a cause which I think righteous and just; I have knowingly and willingly staked my life, family and property, all, upon the issue; I am well prepared to suffer or triumph with it, and would rather die a thousand deaths than betray my country or deceive my friends." Shortly after his death, the infamous Colonel Tarleton and his forces occupied the Richardson plantation. It was Tarleton himself who burned down the house and had Colonel Richardson's body disinterred and exposed. Source: The Hills of Wilkes County and Allied Families, pp 260-261.

#### **1780 April 14. Battle of Monck's Corner**

The battle was fought outside the city of Charleston, South Carolina, which was already under siege by the British under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton. Colonel Banastre Tarleton surprised an American force stationed there, and drove them away.

#### **Stories**

*John T. Holland* was at the Battle of Camden where General Horatio Gates was defeated and his *Captain Bracon* wounded and taken as a prisoner. Afterwards, Lieutenant Verdear succeeded to the command. From that time on, they had repeated skirmishes with *Colonel Banastre Tarleton's* Light Horse, with various success, until attacked by the British horse at Monks Corner where the Americans lost *Major Chevalier Pierre-Francois Vernier*, who was cut to pieces "fighting with his sword hand." Source: Pension S34923

*Benjamin Wallace* entered the service as a volunteer under *Captain Adam Sanders* that the Company then marched to Hillsboro Orange County, here they met with other Companies from different Counties and were all formed into a Regiment of the North Carolina Militia, under Major Taylor. They marched it to the mouth of Cooper River about 6 miles from Charlestown, South Carolina where *Colonel Nall* took the command and was the pilot on the water of Cooper's River in search of vessels and brigs. They were ordered to go up as far as Moncks Corner and on their way to cut holes in all in the vessels and sink them, thus preventing the British from acquiring them. Those found having property were to be landed at Red Banks. They had several vessels when they proceeded to Monck's Corner where there was a cessation of the firing which had been kept up at Charleston for many days. As they ascended the river and the cannon ceased firing at Charleston, that induced them to return with what vessels they had, assuming that Charleston possessed the property of the Americans at the surrender. Source: Pension S32571

### **1780. May 7th. Fort Moultrie falls to the British.**

Fort Moultrie surrendered to General Sir Henry Clinton and Capt. Charles Hueson of the HMS Richmond and five hundred Royal Marines on Sullivan Island. The battle at Fort Moultrie, Georgia was fought by the 2nd and 3rd American regiments. After the British left the neighborhood of Fort Moultrie there was an order for half of the third regiment to march on to storm the fort at St. Augustine. When the regiment reached Augusta, however, the detachment was ordered to march to Augusta instead.

## **Stories**

*Thomas Odom* was a member of the third SC regiment stationed at the Ten-Mile House when orders arrived for *Colonel Thomson* to march to Charleston forthwith as the British fleet under the command of Sir Peter Parker was sailing to that place. The regiment reached Charleston between



daylight and sunrise and going aboard a schooner, landed at Fort Moultrie. A few days later the fleet of Sir Peter Parker came in sight; General Clinton landed his forces on Long Island and threw up a bank of sand to ward off the balls of the Americans. The Americans did the same on Sullivan's Island. British General Clinton made several attempts to drive the Americans from their fortifications, drawing out his men from behind their embankment, marching them in platoons towards the Americans, but they were mowed down, so Clinton had to retire discomfited. The British fleet suffered severely, the main portion being cut down. After the battle was over, the British Admiral sent over to Charleston for a main mast. This was refused him, but they sent him a supply of fresh meat for the wounded soldiers, with an answer that if they wanted a mast, he should go to England for it! "At one time he was obliged together with his brother, *Richard Odom*, to hide himself in the swamps of Crooked Creek in Marlboro District. He came out one morning very early to get some provisions which were to be brought to him at the Cowpens by his sisters, when, before we know it, he was surrounded by the Tories under one Captain Matthew Terry, and taken prisoner. They carried him to Gum Swamp in Richmond County. One of the Tories named John Turner, who had a previous quarrel, declared he would kill him. He, however, appeased them by promising to be their guide in a scout they intended making to plunder the Whig houses. He started with them and as they were marching along on a very dark night, he lagged behind them and before they knew it, made his escape." Source: Pension #521035

### **1780. May 29. British Cavalry defeat a Virginia Regiment at Waxhaws, South Carolina**

Some of the most dramatic defensive battles were fought by the Americans in South Carolina. After the British captured Charleston and Savannah, it was the brave backwoodsmen who joined militia companies and prevented the British from seizing more land, i.e., Augusta, Georgia.

The skirmish which occurred at the Waxhaws in South Carolina is one of the most brutal cases of ugly revenge recorded in the history book.

Charleston had recently fallen to the British on May 12th, 1780 under the command of Sir Henry Clinton. *Colonel Abraham Buford* with three hundred eight troops were late arriving at the battle. They are the Third Virginia Detachment, consisting of two companies of the 2nd Virginia Regiment, 40 Virginia Light Dragoons, and two six-pound cannons. Meanwhile, Sir Clinton planned to return to New York and transferred command of the Southern Army to his deputy, Lord Cornwallis. When Cornwallis learned of Buford's presence he sent "the butcher", Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton in pursuit. On the afternoon of May 29th, Tarleton took over two hundred men plus a three-pound cannon at a rapid pace to catch up with Colonel Buford. The two armies met at Waxhaws, a hilly area along the North Carolina-South Carolina border.

Tarleton sent ahead a message to Buford, demanding the Patriots surrender. Buford refused, but he had to move his heavy artillery further northward and formed a battle line in an open field. Tarleton divided his troops into three columns, deploying sixty British Legion dragoons and infantry to pour fire upon the Americans. and approached Buford's position. The left column was led by Tarleton himself and consisted of thirty handpicked men.

The British attacked as soon as all of his troops were in position. The patriots were speedily overrun. The Americans commenced surrendering, throwing up white handkerchiefs. But Tarleton gave no quarter; his soldiers began to cut down the soldiers in the field.

The story from the American side was that they were being massacred under a flag of surrender, and news of the vicious slaughter by Colonel Tarleton's men passed quickly through the ranks of the American armies. The news spurred a promise of revenge as South Carolinians left their farms all over the state to join up with militia companies. The British advanced further

into North Carolina, but men from all over the South took up arms in order to defeat the butchers of Waxhaws.

The result was that hunters, scouts and farmers from across the Appalachian mountains, carrying the flintlock blunderbuss, firearms crafted with a short, large caliber barrel which flared at the muzzle into battle. They were called the "Overmountain Men", ready to defeat the british at the Battle of King's Mountain.

The Americans cried: "Remember Waxhaws!"

## Stories

*Robert Owl* was drafted to serve in the militia of Princess Anne County Virginia, and before the expiration of the term for which he was so drafted he enlisted himself in the regular [Army] and Served under *Captain Wallis* who was killed at Buford's defeat when the narrator was slightly wounded in the Head; that he afterwards served under *Captain Morgan* was wounded at the Battle of Eutaw Springs having his left leg broke by a musket Ball at which time his room was dressed by Doctor Johnson and *Doctor Clements* both at that time Surgeons in the Army. He states further that he continued in the Army to the close of the War. Source: Pension S36713,=,

### **1780. June 20. Battle of Ramsour's Mill**

This battle occurred near Lincolnton, North Carolina at a time when the British campaign to gain control of the Southern colonies. Many German Palatine families had settled in the region and it is believed that they fought as Loyalist militiamen. The battle between family and friends lasted about two hours during morning hours. The loyalists captured a number patriots and planned to hang them afterwards.

## Stories

*General Thomas Kennedy* began his service in 1775 as a volunteer and was soon appointed Captain of the Mounted Men attached to the regiment of Colonel Christopher Bateman. Under General Rutherford he marched to Wilmington, North Carolina, then in possession of the British. Kennedy was then a Captain of Dragoons and the first officer who entered the town which had been abandoned by the enemy. Upon his return home, he and most of his men were taken prisoners by Colonel Fanning and Colonel Elrod of the British army. He was robbed of what little money he had, his watch taken, as well as his commission as Captain. Later paroled, he was exchanged in the spring. At that time, he was engaged in service as a Captain of Mounted Men under General Charles McDowell of North Carolina for six months, marching through North Carolina, South Carolina and part of Georgia. He fought in the battle of Ramsour's Mill in North Carolina as a Captain of a company which had seventeen men killed and wounded. Kennedy was wounded himself in the leg by a rifle. He stated in his application for a pension that "our party was victorious after sustaining a heavy loss." Kennedy went on to fight in the battle of King's Mountain, a battle at the head of Can Creek in North Carolina, and the Hamptons in South Carolina. Source: Pension application 20 August 1832.

### **1780. July 12. American troops defeat British in York County, South Carolina**

Known as the Battle of Williamson's Plantation, this engagement occurred in present York County, South Carolina, and was one of the first battles of the southern campaign to be won by Patriot militia.

## Stories

Prisoner. John Justice enlisted during June of 1777 while a resident of Spartanburg District, South Carolina as a fifer under Capt. LeRoy Hammond. After being taken prisoner on July 1, 1780 at Fort Rutledge, he was paroled.

Notes: Moved to Kentucky. Source: Pension W9092

Prisoner. *Simeon Justice* enlisted on June 1, 1777 while residing at Ninety Six, South Carolina, as a drummer under Capt. Benjamin Tutt and Colonel LeRoy Hammond. After being taken prisoner at the fall of Fort Rutledge, he was paroled and discharged on July 2, 1777. Notes: he moved to Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky. Source: Pension W7946

### **1780. Aug 1. Battle of Rocky Mount, South Carolina**

This was a battle between six hundred Loyalists commanded by Lt. Colonel George Turnbull who occupied an outpost in northern South Carolina. Three hundred Americans ventured an attack led by Colonel Thomas Sumter.

## **Stories**

*Charles Littleton* volunteered in the Army who went in pursuit of the Tories who made their escape to Saint Augustine, Florida. They went as far as the St. Mary's River and found it impractical to overtake the Tories. This campaign under Capt. Gordon Col Lile's Regiment. the Expedition was commanded by General Andrew Williamson. Next, he was marched to Augusta the British having possession of said place. the American Army was again discharged and returned home. He was later in the battle of Stono, Charleston and Camden. He fought in the Battle of Rocky Mount in South Carolina and on the following Sunday, was at the Battle of Hanging Rock. Then, marched down to take possession of the Ferry at Camden remained there four days. Upon the defeat of General Horatio Gates, they retreated to the Catawba River. On the Second day after Gates defeat, Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton pursued General Sumter and the Americans were defeated at Fishing Creek. Source: Pension Application of Charles Littleton W8255

### **1780. August 6. Americans victorious at Hanging Rock Creek, South**

## Carolina

The Battle of Hanging Rock was on the Kershaw-Lancaster County border of South Carolina. Actually, it served as part of a campaign of militia commander General Thomas Sumter to harass or destroy British outposts in the South Carolina back-country that had been established after the fall of Charleston in May 1780.

## Stories

*John Buckalow.* "I served under General Williamson three times in the state of South Carolina. Also under General Sumter at the Battle of Hanging Rock, where I, with others, was detached from the army of General Davidson under whom I served until he was killed in the Battle at Tool's Ford on the Catawba River. I afterwards fought at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse under General Greene. The only regiments of which I have any Battle of Hanging Rock, where I, with others, was detached from the army of General Davidson under whom I served until he was killed in the Battle at Tool's Ford on the Catawba River. I afterwards fought at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse under General Greene." Source: Pension.Application of John Buckaloe, Natl Archives Microseries M804, Roll, R1391 Marengo County, Alabama.

### **1780. August 8. The Second Battle of Cedar Spring or Wofford's Iron Works.**

South Carolina. *Colonels Clarke and Shelby* stopped for refreshment on Fair Forest, where the old road crossed a stream when they were alarmed by the firing of a gun. They immediately decamped that evening and marched to the Thomson place. That morning a detachment from british Colonel Ferguson's command entered camp and commenced fighting. Ferguson's army consisted of about seven hundred soldiers, and the American forces were about six hundred. Source: Colonial Revolutionary History of Upper

### **1780. August 16. Battle of Camden, South Carolina- Defeat of Gates**

The Battle of Camden Court House was a major victory for the British who were fighting under Lieutenant General Charles and Lord Cornwallis routed against the American troops led by Major General Horatio Gates. The site was about four miles north of Camden, South Carolina. This victory enabled the British to hold on to the Carolinas following the capture of Charleston.

As a result, General Gates, commanding numerical superiority over the British forces, was personally humiliated. Afterwards, he was regarded with disdain by his colleagues and he never held a field command again. His political connections, however, helped him avoid any military inquiries or courts martial into the debacle.

### **Stories**

*Captain John Collins of Acworth, Georgia.* Prisoner. Anyone who has visited the Mars Hill Presbyterian Church Cemetery in Acworth, Georgia has seen the grave of Captain John Collins. At the onset of the Revolutionary War, John Collins enlisted as a private in the Militia of Captain John McAfee, Regiment of Colonel Neal to defend the South Carolina frontiers against the Cherokee Indians. His company marched to Fort Independence on the Seneca River in South Carolina and were engaged in frequent skirmishes; thence to the middle settlement of the Cherokee Nation where they defeated the Indians. During October of 1778, Collins visited the home of his father in Camden District, South Carolina and enlisted as a substitute for *Moses Kemp*, taking the rank of private under *Captain Thomas Barron*. The company marched to Brier Creek to meet General Ashe where he was stationed for two months. Then, Daniel McIntire hired him to take his place in the North Carolina Militia for three months under Captain Benjamin Harden, Colonel Charles McDowell and Lieutenant Colonel Tinning. They marched to Charlotte, North Carolina, then to Savannah, Georgia where

they joined General Lincoln, then to Brier Creek and Bacon Bridge on the Ashley River for three months. He was taken prisoner at the fall of Charleston on May 12th, and paroled in Lincoln County, North Carolina.

After being home about two months, he was taken by a parcel of Tories and carried to where Colonel Ferguson was with British, charged with violating his parole, found guilty, and sentenced to hang. But by a providential occurrence, he effected his escape, seeking refuge in army, joined the battle of Guilford. He was at the defeat of Colonel Banastre Tarleton at Cowpens, and the defeat of Ferguson at Kings Mountain. Afterwards, he went to Henry County, Virginia where he substituted for William Jones for two months and serving as Lieutenant Adjutant marched to Petersburg, Virginia, but soon driven from there by British. He was at the Battle of Jamestown then enlisted in the South Carolina Militia and marched to the Orangeburg Court House, then Four Holes Bridger then Dorchester, and Bacons Bridge. Like most immigrants to Georgia, he was in several counties in Georgia before finally setting at the Mars Hill community in Acworth.

*Captain Robert Porterfield*, a paroled prisoner at Charleston, South Carolina, wrote to the Virginia governor on February 1, 1791, that his brother, Lt.-Col. *Charles Porterfield* had died on the 10th ult. on his way from Camden to Charleston, from the effects of a wound in the battle of Camden. He said that Lord Rawdon had loaned Colonel Porterfield thirty guineas and otherwise treated him with kindness. Capt. Porterfield asked the Governor to pay the money himself. If this could not be done, he begged for a loan promising to return it immediately upon his release. The guineas were not forthcoming, and Capt. Porterfield, having only arrived at Richmond as a paroled prisoner from Charleston, South Carolina, wrote to Governor Nelson on the subject on August 9, 1781. Source: *The Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871* by Joseph A. Waddell, p. 281.

Prisoner. *George Purvis* enlisted in the Delaware Regulars in 1775; was a Second Lieutenant in Captain Patten's Company, Colonel Hall's Regiment in



April of 1777; was at the battles of Monmouth, Germantown and Brandywine. He was captured at Camden, South Carolina and exchanged. (promoted to captain in 1782). Notes: George Purvis was born in England and first settled in Delaware before coming to Glynn County, Georgia in 1789. Source: Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers of Georgia by McCall, Vol. III, pg 190.

*Benjamin Bryant* was drafted into service under Capt. Isaiah Martin and Colonel Lucas of the 4th Regiment of Virginia, marching towards the British Lines at Camden. He fought in the battle under the command of Colonel Charles Porterfield who was shot in the knee on the first fire of the British and who died the next day. The second time that he was drafted into service was October of 1780 under the command of Capt. John Graves and Colonel Lucas under General Stephens. Nathanael Green was commander in chief. The regiment rendezvoused at Hillsboro and marched into South Carolina where they took up winter quarters. The enemy was on the opposite side of the Pedee River. The regiment encountered a skirmish while crossing the river with the infamous Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton, defended by Colonel Daniel Morgan on the American side on February 4, 1781. The enemy pursued them while the troops retreated to the Dan River. Source: Pension W8389.

*George Dunn* served two years in the 4th South Carolina Artillery Regiment of Colonel Owens Roberts and was at the defeat of General Gates; he was captured in Charleston in 1780 and taken as a prisoner of the British. Pension: S41515

*Michael Kinser* of Wyche County Virginia stated before the court that he was called upon to perform the duties of a soldier for eighteen months. While in the service in the company of Captain *Bently* and the Regiment of *Colonel Harris* during the second Battle of Camden he said "he was cut to pieces and taken prisoner by the enemy." While in prison he was "plundered by the British soldiers of his money and a tobacco note which

had been given to him on the part of the Government of Virginia in consideration of his services." He had lost the evidence of the debt due but was requesting the Virginia Assembly to reimburse him, stating that he was receiving a pension of \$40 annually which was "very inadequate compensation for five sword cuts on the head, the disability of his left arm and one of the fingers of his left hand and the entire loss of three of the fingers on his right hand." *Early Adventurers on the Western Waters, Vol I*, by Kegley. Source: pp 135

*Benjamin Guess* enlisted in a horse company commanded by *Captain Richmond Pearson, Colonel Isaacs and General Griffith Rutherford* in Wilkes County, North Carolina and joined the army of *General Horatio Gates*; marched to Rugeley's Mills where three armies were encamped two days and nights. The third night the troops were ordered to march in order to suppress the British then in Camden. However, they were met by the British about halfway between the mill and Camden "where we had a battle known as Gates defeat where *Colonel Isaacs* was taken prisoner; we were all scattered after the battle the most of the company with the Captain and myself returned home to Wilkes County. . . . " Source: Pension S32283

*Luke Valentine* was drafted into a Militia Company under the command of *Captain Thomas Leftwich* and met at New London (Bedford County Virginia); marched to Hillsborough in North Carolina, where all the Virginia Militia rendezvoused in that campaign; and where they were organized into regiments forming a brigade, commanded by *General Edward Stevens*; The regiment to which Captain Leftwich's company was attached was commanded by Colonel George Stubblefield and Joseph Spencer at Hillsborough, North Carolina, where the brigade was stationed for five or six weeks. From there, the Brigade marched to South Carolina and joined the regular army at Rugeley's mills about two days before the defeat of General Horatio Gates near Camden. The company then were so scattered as they they did not regroup. Source: Pension S6299

## **Summer 1780. Indian Battles on the Wabash River in Indiana**

*Phineas Cox* enlisted on the Holston River during March of 1778 under Captain James Shelby Lt. Richard Brashear and Colonel Montgomery who was under the command of General George Rogers Clark; afterwards, went in boats down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River and up that river to the Kaskaskia River; then six miles to the Illinois Towns (as then called). From there, the troops went in boats down the Ohio River to the mouth of the Great Wabash River to Fort Vincent. He remained there for several months guarding pack horses for which he was promised one dollar per day for ninety days, but never received a cent for his work. Later, he was discharged by Colonel John Montgomery. Then, on July 1, he volunteered for sixty or sixty-five days and served under Colonel Montgomery; went up the Mississippi River to the mouth of the Illinois River, thence up said river to a little French village where they left the boats and pack horses to go against the Indians. But the Indians had fled. Source: Pension W3004.

## **American Militia Companies Won the Backwoods**

After the Revolutionary War, many soldiers received land grants in Georgia for service rendered. The struggles and hardships, Continental Army and Local Militias, drew farmers and planters alike off their land for the great cause of freedom. The days of the Indian instruction to add a fish to each hole in the field to nourish corn had long passed. Before the war even began, soils were depleted of vital nutrients and money crops like tobacco and cotton had to be rotated. That meant that land lay fallow for several years before replanting. Meanwhile, several generations of the same families were still occupying the old home place. It was time for the new generations to move on. And this is exactly what they did. In 1781, General George Washington, commanded a force of some 17,000 French and Continental troops, and marched on Yorktown where he commenced a siege against British General Lord Charles Cornwallis.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### **1780. September 26. Battle of Charlotte, North Carolina.**

The battle occurred at the Mecklenburg County Court House between Lord Charles Cornwallis of the British forces and a combative force of North Carolina Militiamen commanded by General William Lee Davidson who ordered an immediate retreat upon getting a glimpse of the British forces. The British cavalry formed a line of battle about three hundred yards from Davidson's men, and charged. Fortunately, the infamous Colonel Banastre Tarleton was indisposed from the previous night's march. Major George Hanger led the British cavalry into the rebel musket fire. Hanger's confused troops reeled back. Ultimately, the British won the battle, with the Americans retreating.

### **Stories**

*Lieutenant William Jordan* of Richmond County, Virginia served under General Nathanael Greene as an Ensign in the Georgia Line, and was wounded in the thigh with a musket ball and taken prisoner by the British on September 1, 1780; and exchanged two years later. However, when Lord Cornwallis was defeated at Yorktown, he was released at Wilmington. Source: *The Georgians* by Jeannette Holland Austin, pp 200-203.

### **1780. October 7th. Battle of King's Mountain, North Carolina**

The tide of battle was soon to turn, however, in a sequence of events which followed. First, the overmountain men defeated forces under Patrick Ferguson at Kings Mountain on October 7, 1780. General Cornwallis, in command in the South, abruptly stopped his push into North Carolina and fell back to South Carolina to protect its western borders. About the same time, George Washington selected General Nathanael Greene to salvage the situation in the South. Greene, against contemporary military wisdom, split his army so that they could move more widely throughout the

Carolinas. Greene's decision to put Daniel Morgan in command of one division led to a Patriot victory at Cowpens, where British losses were staggering: 110 dead, over 200 wounded and 500 captured. Cowpens was followed by a stand-off at Guilford Courthouse where, it is estimated, the British lost one-third of their force and some of their best officers. Siege of the British fort at Ninety Six put additional pressure on the British. Subsequent Cornwallis blunders and British failure to provide naval superiority led to his entrapment and Patriot victory at Yorktown. The blow was decisive; the war was lost, and American forces in the South played a great part in the final victory. Additionally, historians point to numerous militia skirmishes in the back country and to Greene's long-term strategy of disrupting British logistics as crucial to final victory.

Lt. Colonel Patrick Ferguson joined the British army before he was fifteen years of age. In 1776 he invented the first breech-loading rifle used in the army and formed a corps of riflemen. He'd bragged about how this rifle would defeat the Americans at King's Mountain. Ferguson has been severely wounded, however, in the battle of Brandywine; three years later he dislodged the Americans at Stony Point and was sent South. After the battle of Charleston, Ferguson trained the Loyalist Militia of South Carolina. When Lord Cornwallis heard that Ferguson was advancing towards Augusta, Georgia, he dispatched Ferguson to cut it off. But Ferguson had heard that a thousand mountain men were assembled at Watauga, and abandoned the plan and began a retreat towards Charlotte. He was, however, interceded and forced to make a stand.

October 2. Ferguson was only about fifteen or twenty miles from the American forces of McDowell, Shelby and Sevier. Anticipating an attack from them, he moved his command about four miles and lay on his arms all night long. The next day, he marched through Rutherford County, North Carolina, crossing a river at Camp's Ford and then Sandy Run Creek. Here, after resting awhile, he moved seven miles further to Tate's Place on Buffalo Creek where he tarried until the 5th of October. At that time, he

sent a dispatch to Lord Cornwallis:

"My Lord. I am on my march to you by a road leading from Cherokee Ford north of King's Mountain. Three or four-hundred good soldiers would finish this business. Something must be done soon. Patrick Ferguson."

Ferguson forged ahead, determined to risk the battle before hearing from Cornwallis, it is said that his pride outweighed his judgment. He moved his troops in the direction of Yorkville, and on this road after crossing a creek, came to King's Mountain in the afternoon. As he pitched camp, he said he "had selected his ground and that he defied God Almighty and all the rebels out of hell to overcome him!"

Ferguson, confident was that he would hold the best position, and that his breech-loading rifles would carry the day against the Americans.

On the night of October 6th, Ferguson camped on the southern end of King's Mountain. The mountaineers, after a forced night march, reached the base of the mountain with reinforcements.

*General Campbell* and the American forces also reached King's Mountain whose first duty was to find the exact location and position of Ferguson. It was a very dark night when they set out to find Ferguson, and a drizzling rain set in. The roads were pretty good and the Americans had guides who were acquainted with the countryside. However, the darkness caused the pilots of Campbell's men to lose their way. By morning, confused and lost, they dispersed. As the daylight streamed through the forest, however, the pilots regained their position as being about fifteen miles from King's Mountain. Luckily, after crossing the Broad River, after traveling three miles, they came upon Ferguson's former encampment, above Cherokee Ford. A heavy pouring rain once again deterred any progress, until Colonel Shelby said "I will not stop until night if I have to follow Ferguson into Cornwallis' lines."

That evening the mountain boys surrounded Lt. Colonel Patrick Ferguson

and launched an attack the following day. After three charges and countercharges, Ferguson and many of his men were killed.

Sources: Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina, pgs. 191-193; 195-202; Revolutionary War Journals of Henry Dearborn 1775-1783, pp. 208.

## Stories

### *General William Lenoir.*

In the expedition to King's Mountain General Lenoir held the appointment of Captain in Colonel Cleaveland's regiment, which united with the other Whig forces at the head of the Catawba river. When it was ascertained it would be impossible to overtake Ferguson, now evidently showing signs of fear, with the footmen, it was decided by a council of the officers, that as many as could procure horses should do so, and thus, as mounted infantry, advance rapidly upon the retreating enemy. Accordingly, Gen. Lenoir and his company offered their services, joined the select Spartan band of nine hundred and ten brave spirits, and pressed forward without delay to the scene of action. General Lenoir was wounded in the arm and in the side, but not severely, and a third ball passed through his hair, just above where it was tied. He was also at the defeat of Col. Pyles, on Haw River, where his horse was shot and his sword broken. At a later period he raised a company and marched towards Dan river with the hope of joining General Greene, but was unable to effect a junction in time. General Lenoir served as Major General of the militia about eighteen years. Source: Sketches of Western North Carolina, Historical and Biographical by Author: C. L. Hunte

*General William Campbell* of King's Mountain fame and son of Charles Campbell, was baptized by Rev. John Craig on September 1, 1745 in Augusta County, Virginia. The origin of the family was Ireland when John Campbell came to America in 1726 with five or six grown sons and several daughters. They removed to that part of Orange County which became

Augusta County in 1738. Charles Campbell, the son of Patrick, died in Augusta County in 1767. In his last will and testament dated August 4, 1761, proved March 17, 1767, he speaks of himself as a resident of Beverley's Manor. He left his wife Margaret as executrix, 1000 acres of land on the Holston to go to his son William. The land was located in later Washington County. The wife of General William Campbell was a sister of Patrick Henry and his only child became the wife of General Francis Preston. It was on October 7, 1780, that Campbell lead his regiments into the Battle at Kings Mountain, where they defeated the British Forces lead by Major Patrick Ferguson. The victory destroyed the left wing of Cornwallis's Army and forced the British to retreat from Charlotte into South Carolina. When the General died in 1781, his widow married General Russell.

The battle soon raged with fury from every angle of the mountain. General "Lighthorse Harry" Lee said of King's Mountain that "it was more assailable by the rifle than defensible with the bayonet."

Ferguson dashed from one side to another to rally his men to lead a charge, crying aloud "Which way I flay is hell!"

At certain times, Whigs and Tories would be making for the same rock. The counter-sign of the Americans was "Buford" in remembrance of "Tarleton's quarter" at the Waxhaws. Now as the time to exact revenge. As the armies were driven closer together, the columns of Colonel Shelby and Campbell united on the summit of the mountain while Colonels Cleveland, Winston and McDowell led their men up the steep acclivity and were in the rear of Ferguson's line which was facing the united columns of Campbell and Shelby and the british were too closely enveloped to renew the charge. Two white flags of surrender were raised as a token remembrance of the surrender which Ferguson cut down with his sword. Ferguson exclaimed "I would never surrender to such banditti." Then, he mader a desprate effort to break through the American lines, but failed. It had been announced by



the British beforehand that Colonel Ferguson wielded the sword in his left hand and that he wore a light or checked duster or hunting shirt over his uniform, called "the pig shirt." Thus, the Americans were on the qui vice for him. About twenty calvary men followed Ferguson, but were picked off by the American marksmen as fast as they mounted. Ferguson was desperate to escape with his only two officers, Colonel Vazey Husband and Major Daniel Plummer, both of whom were killed. Ferguson was conconscious when he fell and lived only a few minutes! Many heroic deeds were performed that day.

Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell; Colonial and Revolutionary History of Upper South Carolina, pp. 201-209

*Joseph Dobson* was at the battle of Ramsour's Mill where he was wounded and his brother, John Dobson, was killed. Later, he was wounded at the Battle of King's Mountain; Captain of a light horse in August of 1781.

Source: Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers in Georgia by McCall, Vol. II, pg 43.

*Samuel Alexander*. During the autumn of 1780, he was a wounded soldier sequestered at the home of *Sarah Erwin*, a patriot. In an effort to conceal Alexander from hostile Tories, she had placed him in an out-building near the home. The home was plundered. As the Tories approached the out-building where Alexander lay helpless, Sarah placed herself at the door and denied them admittance. They thrust her aside and found Alexander.

While the Tories struck Alexander, Sarah threw herself between them with a right arm over Alexander's head. In doing so, she received a severe wound from a Tory sword, which wound maimed her for life. Source: Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina, Vol 2, pg 82.

*Thomas Toms*. His name appears on the 1794 list of Invalid Pension Claims for Virginia which indicated that he resided in Albemarle County, Virginia. Toms was wounded in 1780 at Kings Mountain and claimed a pension relating to the following disability: "Severely wounded on the head, being

scalped on the left temple with a stroke from a hatchet, which does much injury to that eye; is also disabled in two fingers on the left hand, and wounded in the right hip and neck; all which he received in the service of the United States, against Major Ferguson, on King's mountain." The examining physician gave no recommendation for pension entitlement. Source: AmericanState Papers.

*James Head* entered service in Spartanburgh District, South Carolina and served under Lt. Miles of Capt. Ford's Company in Colonel Roebuck's Regiment. "We went with Lt. Miles to the frontier on Green River and served continued for three months to keep check on the Indians. I there took the small pox and returned home in January or February of 1781, having served four months, at least. After my recovery I attached myself to Lt. Miles in March 1781 and went on scouting expeditions to North Carolina about King's Mountain to Catawba River with twelve of Col. Lee's dragoons who was new and ---- their horses. We then returned to the area now know as Spartanburgh District and I continued till the last of July or 1st August 1781. I served about four months. I then attached to Capt. Waters in September 1781 who went out on Broad River. I was left to take charge of six or seven horses, five or six Negroes and baggage. The Captain and his command went off and left me in charge of the porperty. I remained there till December when I was relieved and went on tour in December 1781 or January 1782 over about King's Mountain for four or five weeks. I served four months with Cpt. Waters and served in all about twelve months."

Source: James Head file, no. R4814, Revolutionary War Pension Applications; microcopy M804, roll 1240, (Washington: National Archives.

*Benjamin Coffey* entered service in Burke County, North Carolina in the year 1776 under the command of Captain Thomas Whitson, commanding officer being Colonel Joseph McDowell. Marched to the frontier of said County and built a Fort Crider on Lower Creek. Next tour of service was a march through Lincoln County to King's Mountain wich was under the British command of Major Patrick Ferguson. Colonel Benjamin Hearn and Colonel

Benjamin Cleveland were joined by the forces of Colonel William Campbell, Colonel Isaac Shelby, and Colonel John Sevier. Major Ferguson was killed in the battle, and his men defeated. " I was not in the battle in consequence of losing my horse the night before and having to join the footmen under Colonel Benjamin Hearn and the foot did not come up until the battle was over on the American side Colonel Williams was killed." Afterwards, Coffey was sent to Moravian town in North Carolina to guard the prisoners where he was attacked, and with a pain in his ankles, was furloughed until November. Source: Pension S1655

*William Conner* was in the battle of King's Mountain, commanded by Colonel Campbell. He related in his pension that there were two hundred British and Tories killed in the Battle and several hundred prisoners weretaken. Colonel Patrick Ferguson who commanded the enemy was killed; so also was Colonel Williams of the patriot Army. Several of the Tories were tried and hung; one by the name of Baldwin made his escape but was afterwards killed. Source: Pension S30955

### **1780. October 14. Battle of Shallow Ford on the Yadkin River**

After the Battle of King's Mountain , four companies of Patriots from Montgomery County, Virginia, under Major Joseph Cloyd and Captains Henry Francis, Isaac Campbell, George Parris, and Abraham Trigg had followed earlier troops, marched to meet up with Major Patrick Ferguson. However, upon reaching the western North Carolina frontier, they learned of his defeat at Kings Mountain, so were redirected to Surry County. Joining them were three companies from Charlotte and Salisbury including local Surry county militiamen. A Tory force of over four hundred crossed the Yadkin River and were moving westward on the Mulberry Fields Road. This region was named Mulberry Fields by Native Americans and during the Revolutionary War a wooden community building stood on this site.

Both sides hastily formed and fired several rounds at each other. The Whigs, though outnumbered, quickly gained the advantage. Captain James

Bryan, of the notorious Tory Bryan clan, who led the Tory forces, was quickly killed, along with 13 others. Then the Tories, while retreating back across the Yadkin, shouted "we are whipped, we are whipped."

## Stories

*Robert Bell* was drafted into the war one month after it began and marched to Bluestone, the site of an inroad of Indians whom they frequently repelled. The fourth time that he was drafted, he served under Colonel Preston, Major Joseph Cloyd and Captain Abram Trigg. The company marched to the Mulberry fields on the Yadkin River, and from there to Shallow Ford where his regiment battled with the Tories. Afterwards, he helped to carry the wounded from Shallow Ford to the Moravian Towns, where he left them in the care of physicians. Source: Pension S8065.

### **1780. November 20. Battle of Blackstock Farm, Union, South Carolina**

British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton pushed up the Enoree River with Major John Money's 63rd Regiment of Foot and his Legion hot on the trail of Patriot Brigadier General Thomas Sumter's militia. Tarleton learned that Sumter's army was only two hours ahead of him at Blackstock's farm. Anxious to overtake General Sumter, Tarleton left behind his infantry and artillery, to move quickly with his Legion cavalry and the mounted infantry.

The Blackstock farm and out-buildings were built with logs with unchinked openings through which the soldiers could fire. The out-buildings were surrounded by a rail fence made of heavy-notched saplings, and formed one side of a lane leading to the house. Perhaps an ideal setting to fire on the British. General Sumter posted his troops around the buildings. Major McArthur's Highlanders approached within four hundred yards of Sumter's position, dismounted, grounded their knapsacks on the bank of the Tyger River, and formed in the farm field. and let down the fence opposite them. The American casualties were three killed, five wounded and fifty captured. British casualties were ninety-two killed, one hundred wounded, and fifty-

four missing or wounded. A decisive American victory.

## Stories

*William Blackstock* was born in Belfast, County Antrim Ireland and settled on a farm in Union County, South Carolina and a member of the South Carolina Militia. He was paid three pds. sterling for militia duty as a private horseman on the payroll of Captain John Irvine. Source: Stub Entries to Indents from Revolutionary War Claims by Salley, Book I, pp 106; The Georgians by Jeannette Holland Austin, pp. 29-34.

*James Withrow* was appointed a Captain and under the command of Colonel Andrew Hampton at the Battle of Blackstock's Plantation, November 20, 1780]. This Battle was fought under the command of *General Sumter*. Later, "I was a Captain and commanded a company at Kings Mountain." Source: S7945.

### **December 10, 1780. Battle of Long Canes, South Carolina.**

Lieutenant Colonel, Isaac Allen and a British force of 400-500 men defeated *Colonel Elijah Clarke* and one hundred Americans, which was an advanced detachment of a Patriot force commanded by *Colonel Benjamin Few*.

Ironically, during 1760, there was an Indian Massacre which occurred in the Long Canes area of Abbeville, South Carolina near where a Scots-Irish settlement was established ten years earlier.

## Stories

*Samuel Whatley*, Shot, Hanged and Frozen. The father of Samuel Whatley was killed by Indians at Cherokee Corner on the Clarke-Oglethorpe Counties Line when he was fourteen years old.

*Samuel Whatley* served in Georgia under *Capt. Micajah Williamson* of the Mounted Militia in the Regiment of *Colonel Clarke* and fought in the battle of Long Cane on December 10, 1781. It was during the siege of Augusta

when he was shot in the left arm, for which he lost the use thereof. He was betrothed to Catharine Anglin before he left on his South Carolina Campaign and returned home with his wounds to be married before old Squire Biddle in Wilkes County. Whatley was known to be a loyal Whig and before he reached majority was twice frozen, once hung and twice shot while in the defense of liberty. In 1786 he was retired from service due to injuries sustained during the Revolutionary War. His wife, Catharine Whatley, wrote a letter to Senator R. W. Habersham of Georgia stating that at the time of the Revolutionary War her father, James Anglin, had removed from North Carolina to Georgia settling near Washington, Georgia. He brought with him seven sons and Catharine, "motherless" daughter about thirteen years of age. After the death of her husband, Catharine went to live on the plantation of her son, James Whatley. The affidavit of Henry Anglin Sr., attached to the application of Samuel Whatley for a pension, stated that Whatley was wounded at Long Canes, South Carolina and taken prisoner four to five months and that when he returned home the soldier had wounds all over his body. The Battle of Long Canes was fought in McCormick County on December 12, 1780 when a force of four hundred to five hundred men defeated Colonel Elijah Clarke and 100 Americans. The Revolutionary War Pension usually provides information as to where soldier was born, resided and died as well as personal details. Study the pension, dates of service and battles helps the genealogist to know where the soldier was during different time periods and where to search the State and County records. Most soldiers traveled extensively during the war, and did not always return to the place of birth, but moved into other States to accept land grants for the service. Source: Pension W64922

### **1781. January 17. The Battle of Cowpens**

The Battle of Cowpens occurred in the latter part of the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution and of the Revolution itself. It became known as the turning point of the war in the South, part of a chain of events

leading to Patriot victory at Yorktown. Part of General Morgan's command consisted of Virginia riflemen, and included two companies from Augusta County, Capt. James Tate and Capt. Buchanan. The victory of Cowpens was considered one of the most remarkable of the war. Only twelve Americans were killed, and sixty wounded. Five hundred British prisoners were taken and turned over to the Virginia troops. The result of the battle excited Lord Cornwallis and he afterwards pressed his troops into Carolina to do battle with General Greene.

General Henry Lee, in his account of the battle of Cowpens, mentions Capt. Triplett. Capt. Tate. Congress presented a sword to Triplett, however the death of Tate two months later prevented him from this recognition. Source: Annals of Augusta County, Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp. 280.

Cowpens was the American Revenge against British Colonel Banastre Tarleton.

*Henry Lee* was known for his equestrian skills for which he earned the sobriquet of "Light-Horse Harry." On September 22, 1779 the Continental Congress voted to present Lee with a gold medal; a reward not presented to any other officer below the rank of general. It was given for the action of Lee Legion during the Battle of Paulus Hook in New Jersey during August 19 of that year. Lee was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and was assigned with his Legion to the Southern Campaign. During January of 1781, his Legion proceeded to raid the British outpost of Georgetown, South Carolina with *General Francis Marion*. Then, Lee joined with General Francis Marion and General Andrew Pickens in the spring of 1781 to capture numerous British outposts in South Carolina and Georgia including Fort Watson, Fort Motte, Fort Danby, Fort Galphin, Fort Grierson, and Fort Cornwallis, Augusta, Georgia. But it was General Nathanael Greene who sent Lee to Augusta to prevent British occupation. From there, Lee's Legion and local militia companies engaged to intimidate the Loyalists in the region.

The "Butcher". There was a wide turn out of militia especially after Colonel Banastre Tarleton ("the butcher") cut down the rebels under a flag of truce.

Their revenge would come at the Battle of Cowpens, when Tarleton lost and retreated into North Carolina followed by Lee and his Legion to fight in the battles of Guilford Court House, the Siege of Ninety-Six and the Battle of Eutaw Springs. Lee was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. As a result, Lee signed many certificates granting bounty lands in Georgia to soldiers who had served under him. This is an important fact for genealogists, because Lee signed so many land grants. Hence, the history of Lee's campaigns represents the history of many soldiers who served under him. From the time that Lee entered the Southern Campaign until the end, he knew victory and defeat, and shortly after the surrendered at Yorktown, he left the Army claiming fatigue and disappointment with his treatment from fellow officers. But his service did not end there. In 1794, he was summoned by Washington to suppress the Whiskey Rebellion in western Pennsylvania. Lee commanded the 12,950 militiamen sent to quash the rebels; there was no fighting due to peaceful surrender. In 1798, Henry Lee was appointed a major general in the U.S. Army with the threat of a war with France. In 1808, he was re-commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson as major-general to fight an expected war with Great Britain wherein he organized the Virginia militia.

During the war and all of his personal struggles, Lee had loaned money to his friends who could not repay. This dilemma caused Lee to turn himself in during 1809 and he was placed in debtor's prison. It was there that he wrote his memoirs.

General Henry Lee, in his account of the battle of the Cowpens, mentioned two Virginia companies of militia as participating; viz: *Capt. Triplett* and *Capt. Tate*. Congress presented a sword to Capt. Triplett who was also killed.



## Stories

According to the pension declaration of *Samuel McCune*, he said that he was drafted in October of 1780 in Buchanan's Company under Lieutenant Wilson and that the men of this company rendezvoused at the Widow Teas' Tavern and marched by way of Lynchburg to join General Morgan in Hillsboro, North Carolina. After the battle of Cowpens, they returned to Salisbury with about five hundred prisoners, and were there discharged.

*Stephen Camp*, at the age of ten years, accompanied his brother, *Benjamin Camp* and others to Cowpens, South Carolina. During the battle he was injured while holding onto the horses. Rutherfordton, North Carolina, the home of many Camp families. Stephen and Benjamin were the sons of Thomas Camp and his wife, Margaret Carney. Notes: The prolific Thomas Camp of Welsh descent, born 1717 King and Queen County, Virginia was the father of 26 children (by two wives) and made his home in Rutherfordton, North Carolina. Source: Camp book by Jeannette Holland Austin

*Jacob Rinker, Sr.* was born in Zurich, Switzerland and came to the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia where he built a home at the base of Cabin Hill. His son, *Jacob Rinker, Jr.* was born 1749 in Conicville and served in the Revolutionary War as a Lieutenant, Captain in the county militia and finally as a Colonel. He was a first lieutenant in *Capt. Jonathan Clarke's* company in the 9th Virginia Regiment from 4 March 1776 to 10 May 1777. He was at the battle of Cowpens. Notes: After the war, he owned 1600 acres of Land at Zions Church and Lantz Mill, as well a Conicville, running a mile below the village. He died at the age of 78 years and was buried in a cemetery near Cain Hill. Source: A History of Shenandoah County Virginia by John W. Wayland.

*General Andrew Pickens* was born Paxton township, Pennsylvania on September 17, 1739. In 1752, his Irish parents had immigrated to

Pennsylvania and taken the Wilderness trail across Cumberland Gap and the Appalachian Mountains into the far reaches of western Virginia to Augusta County. The Pickens family, among others, had to endure the Indian troubles of the far west, so at some point they went back East and settled in South Carolina, in the Waxhaws. General Pickens was actively engaged in the Indian wars and the Revolution. He was most conspicuous for his valor at the Cowpens, Haw River, Augusta (Georgia) and the battle of Eutaw, South Carolina. Source: *Memoirs of the War* p. 594; *Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871* by Joseph A. Waddell.

*George Hillen* was at the battle of King's Mountain, and afterwards, marched to the Cowpens and helped to defeat Colonel Banastre Tarleton and some three hundred to four hundred men. Afterwards, he marched the prisoners to the Island Ford of the Broad River; thence to Augusta Georgia, crossing the Savannah River at the Cherokee Ford where they took Grierson's and Brown's forts and took many prisoners. A comrade named *James Alexander* killed Grierson; also Brown. Colonel Miller of Rutherford was wounded in the foot. Source: Pension S7006.

### **1781. February 19-21. Battle of Fort Granby**

Lexington County, South Carolina. Fort Granby, a British post that protected a landing at Friday's Ferry on the Congaree River. It was garrisoned by a company of three hundred local militia, with the overall command by Major Andrew Maxwell. Interestingly, Wade Hampton, who owned a store in the area had earlier been contracted to supply Fort Granby with provisions and had accepted British protection. However, when he informed Brigadier General Sumter that a British fort was running low on store, the General moved in for an attack. Sumter left a camp of two hundred eighty men on the Catawba River and moved towards the fort. Major Andrew Maxwell had a garrison of three hundred. General Sumter employed some quickly constructed "quaker" cannons and demanded the surrender of the fort, threatening to blow the fort into splinters. But Major

Maxwell declined, deciding the cannons were fake. General Sumter's assault was easily repulsed. He then surrounded the fort and laid down a slow continuous rifle fire to harass the fort's garrison, at the same time he wrote to *Brigadier General Francis Marion* requesting reinforcements. Though Brigadier General Marion did reply, he did not assist. Meanwhile, Colonel Francis (Lord) Rawdon learned of the attack and dispatched Lt. Colonel Welborne Ellis Doyle from Camden with the Irish Volunteers (some six hundred infantry, two hundred cavalry and two artillery pieces. Lt. Col. Doyle crossed the river eight miles above Fort Granby, and seized the fords above Friday's Ferry. When word came of Colonel Doyle's approach, General Sumter destroyed the provisions located nearby as well as other articles which would be of use, then lifted the siege. When Colonel Doyle crossed the river and arrived at the fort, he found that General Sumter had left to attack Thompson's Plantation which was two days down river.

## Stories

*Moses Ferguson* enlisted in the Army of the United States in February of the year 1781 and served in the first Regiment of the South Carolina State Troops under *Lieut. Andrew Alexander, Capt. William Alexander, Major James Rutherford, Colonel Wade Hampton, General Sumter*. He was at the taking of Fort Granby by Colonel Wade Hampton as well as the taking of Fort Orangeburg by Colonel Wade Hampton. Before that battle, General Sumter captured some British near Moncks Corner and got a box of gold from them. Source: Pension S17411.

*William Gannon* enlisted in July of 1780 in Rowan County, North Carolina in a company commanded by *Captain Peter O'Neal* in the Regiment commanded by *Captain Matthew Locke* in the line of the State troops of North Carolina for the term of three months, and that he continued to serve in the line aforesaid until the end of said term of three months: when he was duly discharged in Salisbury in North Carolina. That he the said William Gannon, Sr, also enlisted for the term of twelve months on the first

day of January 1781, in the State of North Carolina in the company commanded by *Captain William Cole* and the Regiment commanded by *Colonel Matthew Locke*, marched to the Catawba River under *Captain Reed*, under whom he was detached to go to *Colonel Wade Hampton's* farm to bring corn for the Army; which was pulled and husked by the Corpd., say about 300 bushels, returned to Catawba last of January, and joined Captain Coles' company in the Regiment commanded by *Colonel Linton* . He stated that he was in the battle of Catawba on February 1, 1781. Source: Pension S32259.

*William Young* enlisted again in May of 1780 for ten months *under Captain Samuel Martin, Colonel William Polk and General Thomas Sumter*; marched on to South Carolina to the Congaree River there the Fort of Congaree was taken; then he was put under a detachment commanded by *Captain William Snipes* and went to the Ashepoo River where they took some horses from the British. On their return, they stopped at Captain Snipes' house and and there had a general engagement with the British in which engagement he received thirteen wounds. All of the troops were killed except Captain Snipes himself and three or four others and he still continued in service and as soon as his wounds would permit him again. At Orangeburg South Carolina he lost a horse, saddle and bridle valued at \$130 for which he has received no compensation. Source: S31505.

### **March 15, 1781. The Battle of Guilford County Court House**

Lord Cornwallis lost one-quarter of his army at the Battle of Cowpens. Anxious to go against General Greene of American army into North Carolina, he burned the baggage train at Ramsour's Mill. Meanwhile, General Greene joined *Daniel Morgan's* Continentals at Trading Ford on the Yadkin River while *Lighthorse Harry Lee* rendezvoused with the rebel army at Guilford Courthouse. Cornwallis out-numbered the Americans by over a thousand men and Greene was being encouraged to avoid Cornwallis, and fight another day. But Greene rushed to cross the Dan River. After sending

a reconnaissance mission across the Dan, Greene learned that British General Buford's massacre had greatly inflamed the rebels. With the Americans so close, Cornwallis abandoned Hillsborough and moved his camp south of Alamance Creek between the Haw River and Deep River. Meanwhile, Greene's army was camped on the north side of the creek, only fifteen miles away. He had a definite advantage: Cornwallis' men, suffering from hunger, plundered tory and rebels alike. Desertions increased. Cornwallis lost almost four hundred men through disease, desertion and death. He was forced to seek a definitive battle with the Americans. Meanwhile, the North Carolina Militia had joined General John Butler and Thomas Eaton; also the Virginia militia, led by Robert Lawson. On 12 March, Greene marched his army of about four thousand troops, militia and Continentals to the Guilford Court House.

Cornwallis learned that Greene was at Guilford Court House and two days later he marched his troops down the road from New Garden towards Guilford Courthouse. But the advance guard of both armies had collided near the Quakers settlement (New Garden Meeting House), west of the court-house. Greene took the opportunity to reconnoiter with the Cornwallis camp, sending Lee's Legion and William Campbell's Virginia Riflemen. At 2 A.M., the rebels noticed Tarleton's movements; two hours later Lee's and Tarleton's men made contact. Tarleton, suffering a musket wound to his right hand, commenced to retreat. *Muhlenburg* then removed his clerical robe to reveal the uniform of a Colonel. Outside the church the drums began to roll as men turned to kiss their wives and then walked down the aisle to enlist, and within half an hour, one hundred sixty two men had enrolled.

The next day the general led out 300 men from the county to form the nucleus of the 8th Virginia Regiment. After Monmouth, most of the Virginia Line was sent to the far South, while Muhlenburg was assigned to head up the defense of Virginia using mainly militia units. On March 25, 1781, After the battle, *General Greene* decided to return to South Carolina where he

detached *Major Samuel Hammond* of South Carolina and *Major James Jackson* of Georgia from his army with orders to penetrate to the Savannah River and open communication with the Americans. When they came into the Ninety-Six District, they sent for *Generals Williamson and Pickens*. They both attended the call and were invited by Hammond and Jackson to unite with them in carrying out General Greene's views. They stated that they were prisoners on parole, on the terms of the surrender of Charleston, and they did not feel justified in breaking their parole. Source: History of Edgefield County, South Carolina by John A. Chapman

## Stories

"This is the Time for War!"

*Daniel Bradley* was a resident of Cumberland County when he enlisted in the Revolutionary War on July 1, 1780 for a term of 18 months under *Captain Alexander Grothemy, Captain White, Colonel Campbell and General Muhlenburg*. Bradley fought in the Battle of Guilford Courthouse and Ninety-Six, South Carolina, involved in various skirmishes. After Eutaw Springs in 1781, he was discharged by *Lieutenant Greene*. Muhlenburg saw service in the Battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth. General Muhlenburg, a religious minister, had joined the fight early in the war and on January 21, 1776 in the Lutheran Church in Woodstock, Virginia, took his sermon text from the third chapter Ecclesiastes, which starts with "To everything there is a season..." after reading the eighth verse, "a time of war, and a time of peace," he declared, "And this is the time of war."

*Samuel Knox* served under Colonel Davy and Capt. Thomas Cowan and was marshalled below Charlotte, North Carolina and sent on an expedition after the defeat of General Gates in Camden, South Carolina, while Lord Cornwallis was at Charlotte. Afterwards, he served under Colonel Locks to watch the movements of the British army at Charlotte and to help in the scouting and foraging parties. He fought a battle against the Tories at

Ramsour's Mill when Capt. Armstrong was killed and the Tories defeated. Afterwards, employed to prevent the British under Lord Cornwallis from crossing the Catawba River before the battle at Guilford. That General Donaldson was skilled on the bank of the Catawba River when the British army of Lord Cornwallis crossed over. Afterwards, Knox was in pursuit of Cornwallis as far as the corn fields in Orange County, North Carolina. Source: Pension S531802.

*Henry Wysor* enlisted in the army in 1776 under Captain Berry; served in the 8th Regiment. He marched to Charleston, South Carolina, then to Sullivan's Island when it was attacked by British ships. Later, he joined General Morgan's Regiment of Riflemen in New Jersey and was at the taking of Burgoyne. Source: Pwnaion A7854, National Archives.

*John Smith* was drafted in the Virginia Militia of Pittsylvania County in 1781, to serve under *Capt. James Brewer*. He fought in the battle of Guilford Ct. Hse, N. C., disch.; drafted fall 1781, *Capt. William Dixon*, marched to York Town and remained there with army until surrender of Cornwallis; then sent to guard prisoners at Noland Ferry. His Capt. William Dixon was taken sick on Rappahannock and *Charles Williams* was apptd. Captain. Source: Pension application of John Smith dated 9/17/1832, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

*Capt. James Tate* was killed at the battle of Guilford Court house. He was one of four brothers who came with their parents from Pennsylvania to Augusta, Virginia early in the 18th century. His residence was in the neighborhood of the present village of Greenville. William Tate, a brother, was at the battles of Point Pleasant, Brandywine, et al. Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell.

*John Bayne*, the son of *Daniel Bayne*, was drafted and ordered to perform a tour of three months. He marched in Lunenburg County, Virginia. He was in a company of Militia commanded by *Captain Lee*, went through Charlotte County crossed Staunton River at Bibb ferry and was for some time in the

county of Halifax when he joined *General Nathaniel Greene's* army at Wyley tavern in the said County of Halifax, Virginia. They soon after entered the state of North Carolina, marching until the militia fell in and they met up with the army of with Lord Cornwallis at the Guilford County, North carolina court house where they battled on March 15, 1781. The Americans were defeated, and a retreat was ordered. His company with many others rendezvoused again at Wins mill in the said county of Guilford, where under *Colonel Nathional Cocke* and *Colonel Haynes Morgan*. Bayne was detailed at a guard to carry a parcel of British prisoners to the Barracks in Albemarle County, Virginia, under the command of Lieut. Cox carried the said prisoners to that place. Bayne was thereafter discharged by Lieut. Cox and discharged in April of 1781..

"Soon after my (first disccharge and) arrival at home, in the month of May 1781, I was drafted and ordered to serve my own tour of three months service. I marched from the said county of Lunenburg under Capt. Rogers to Prince Edward Court-house and at that place joined the army under General Robert Lawson, Colonel [John] Holcombe and Major Purnell, from thence we marched through Amelia and Cumberland to Pointy Fork on James River [sic: Point of Fork at the confluence of James and Rivanna rivers] from then to Malvern Hill (15 mi SE of Richmond); from thence we marched in different directions and were not long at any one place we were as low down James River as Portsmouth Norfolk &c. we then marched back to Williamsburg about this time our term of three months service expired, but we were not discharged which produced a considerable murmur with some of the soldiers of the company to which I was attached, at Williamsburg we joined many other troops under General Washington, Lafayette, and Edward Stephens.

From thence we marched to Little York we were stationed until Lord Cornwallis and his army surrendered to General Washington in the month of October 1780 [sic: 19 Oct 1781], after which I was discharged at Little york about the last of October 1781 by Colonel Holt Richardson [Holt



Richeson] my discharge is lost and cannot be found. I do not know any person living that was in that service with me, to prove it by, the whole time of service rendered on this tour was not less than five months, the total service rendered by me as a private in the War of the Revolution was not less than eight months for which I claim a pension. I was born in the year 1764 in the county of Westmoreland [sic: Westmoreland] in the state of Virginia. My age was recorded in a family bible that was carried by my father to the state of Tennessee. I lived in the county of Lunenburg when I entered the service of the Revolution. I lived in the said County one year after the war closed. I lived in the County of Charlotte six years, then came to the County of Halifax and have lived in that county ever since. I entered the service first as a substitute for Daniel Bayne and last I was drafted to serve my own tour. The officers and circumstances of my service are stated in my declaration. I Received 2 discharges 1st was given to me by *Lieut Cox*, the 2nd by *Colonel Holt Richardson* they are lost. *Colonel Chas. T. Harris*, *Colonel Thomas Davenport*, *Colonel Chas. A. Ballow*, *Capt Isaac Medley* and many others can testify as to my character for veracity and their belief of my services as a soldier of the Revolution. I hereby relinquish every claim whatever to a pension or annuity except the present and declare that my name is not on the pension Roll of the Agency of any state. /s/John hisXmark Bayne."

Source: Pension Application of John Bayne W9336. NOTE: On 27 July 1837 Sally Bayne, 66, applied for a pension stating that as Sally Canada she was married by Rev. William Moore on 25 Oct 1822 to John Bayne, who died in Halifax County on 21 May 1857. The file contains a copy of a marriage bond signed 23 Oct 1822 by John Bayne and Edward Henderson for the marriage of Bayne to Sarah Canada of Halifax County. On 16 Dec 1865 Sally Bayne, 81, applied for the resumption of the pension that had been suspended during the Civil War, during which she had been supported by the charity of the county of Halifax. A note from the Postmaster at News FerryVA dated 3 Feb 1886 states "Sally Bayne is dead and has been for several years."

*John Stuart* inherited his father's land on Walker's Creek, six miles west of Brownsburg, in Augusta County, Virginia where Indian skirmishes were frequent. He fought in the battle of Guilford Court House. His son, James, was at the battle of Yorktown, and later settled in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell.

*Alexander Stuart* was a son of *Archibald Stuart* who came from the lowlands of Scotland to Pennsylvania about 1746. This was the time period of the Jacobite Rebellion wherein the Scots unsuccessfully attempted to restore a Stuart to the British throne. As a result, the Scots were persecuted, so Archibald Stuart refugeeed to Londonderry, Ireland along with other escaping Scots where he aligned himself with others and said for Pennsylvania. In 1738, the family left Pennsylvania to settled on large tracts of land in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in Augusta County.

*Alexander Stuart* served as a Major during the Revolutionary War under *Colonel Samuel McDowell* and fought in the battle of Guilford Court House. During the battle, two horses were killed under him, and he was severely wounded. Notes: Alexander Stuart and was one of the founders of Washington College in Lexington; he died at the age of 90 years. A brother, *Archibald Stuart* served in the War of 1812. Source: History of Shenandoah County, Virginia

*Colonel William Preston* and *Colonel William Campbell*, both of Virginia, participated in the battle of Guilford Court-House. *Colonel Harry Lee* (in his *Memoirs of the War*) described the circumstances under which Colonel Preston joined the Southern Army. *General Greene* had recrossed the Dan River from Virginia to North Carolina. Lee and others, detached from the main army, were operating against the Tories and endeavoring to circumvent Colonel Banastre Tarleton. Late one evening while sentinels and patrols of the opposing forces were in sight, Lee heard from some countrymen, who were refugees from their homes, that a small party of

militia had collected for safety a few miles away, and send a dragoon to request them to hasten to his camp. "It so happened," Lee said, "that with the militia company was found Colonel Preston of Montgomery County, Virginia, just arrived at the head of three hundred hardy mountaineers, who, hearing of Greene's retreat, had voluntarily hastened to his assistance. Lee was encouraged by the arrival of these auxiliaries, and Lee's Legion, along with Preston's men, were eager to fight the next morning. But Tarleton withdrew before daylight. On March 2nd, however, they encountered Tarleton and killed and wounded about thirty of his men. Colonel Campbell brought with him a company of riflemen from Washington County who had fought at King's Mountain; he and his company afterwards joining LaFayette in Virginia. Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddel, pp. 282.

*General Tate* who had hardly rested from the fatigue of the Southern campaign when he began to retrace his steps into North Carolina, to reinforce *General Greene*. Tate's army was composed mostly of men from the Bethel and Tinkling Spring congregations, with *Robert Doak* as Ensign. Capt. Tate and many of his men were killed in the battle on March 15th. *Major Stuart* was taken prisoner; it is said that his captors plundered him and left him standing in his cocked hat, shirt and shoes, later being detained onboard a British ship. Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddel, pp. 282-283.

Capt. Gwin's and Capt. Thomas Smith's companies marched from Staunton, Virginia under the command of Colonel George Moffett and joined the Southern Army near Guilford, Court-house. Capt. Gwin's company proceeded about the first of March on horseback by way of Rockfish Gap and Lynch's Ferry (Lynchburg, Virginia). Before the battle, however, the men were dismounted and the horses sent back. Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddel, pp. 282-283.

*Hugh Mathews* first joined the troops of General Gates under Captain

Brown of Armstrong's Legion of Cavalry of the regulars, to carry expresses from Ralldolph County from the camp next Cox Mills on Deep Creek, to Lieutenant Decatur who was stationed at Cross Creek. When Colonel Litterell of the militia collected on horse back the county militia, Mathews volunteered; joined General Greene at the Ironworks the day after the battle of Guilford Court-House. Source: Pension R7020 SC (rejected).

*Archibald Perkins* was of Scotch-Irish descent. He served as a private in the North Carolina Troops and fought at the battle of Guilford Court House. Source: McCall's Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers.

*Colonel Henry Dixon Jr.*, known as Hal to his soldiers, hailed from Halifax County, Virginia. He served in the Third North Carolina Regiment, Continental Line and fought in the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Stono Ferry, Camden and Guilford Court House. He was popular among his men, and a national monument was erected to his memory at the Guilford Court House National Battlefield Park. He fell in battle at Guilford Court House, thrice wounded, and died on Jul 17, 1782. Source: *The Georgians* by Jeannette Holland Austin, pp 99-100.

### **1781. April 25. Battle of Petersburg, Virginia**

The British army landed at City Point (now Hopewell) on April 24th. They were under the command of Major General William Phillips. Meanwhile, the Virginia militia, commanded by Brigadier *General Peter Muhlenberg*, who had contained the British force at Portsmouth, made a parallel march along the southside of the river towards Petersburg. The Virginia Militia, out-numbered by the British by some twenty-five hundred troops, lost the battle, yet prevented the British from capturing the city without a fight.

### **Stories**

*Anthony Alexander Harrison* entered the war in February of 1781 in Greensville County, Virginia as a substitute for *Thomas Mason* in a company

commanded by *Captain Lucas*. The company marched to Petersburg and from thence down the Appomattox River to or near a place called Cabin Point on said River. Captain Lucas died at some point between Petersburg and Cabin Point, when the command devolved upon his lieutenant. Later, he joined a company commanded by *Captain Thomas Newsom*, as a substitute for one *James Walker*. This company marched on below Suffolk, returned back to Cabin Point, where the British landed, and pursued them as far as Petersburg. The day after they reached Petersburg, he fought in a battle under the command of *General Peter Mecklenburg*. The British under the command of Brigadier General William Phillips defeated about one thousand troops under the command of *Major General Baron von Steuben*. Source: Pension S32303

### **1781. May 22-June 6. Siege of Augusta by the Americans**

On April 16, the Patriot militia companies under the command of *Micajah Williamson* arrived on the outskirts of Augusta, Georgia where they established a fortified camp. *General Andrew Pickens* had a force of four hundred men which he maneuvered between Augusta and Ninety Six, South Carolina to prevent British re-enforcement of Fort Cornwallis. On May 15, *Williamson* was joined by his commander, *Elijah Clarke* and another 100 men, effectively cutting British supply lines. *General Nathanael Greene* sent Major Henry Lee to attempt the capture of Ninety Six, but when Lee learned that the town had been fortified in anticipation of Greene's arrival, he was then ordered to assist Pickens at Augusta. Lee rushed his troops to reach Augusta in three days, after traveling 75 miles. Lee's troops arrived during the siege. His army had recently captured Fort Granby and Fort Galphin, important due to the large amount of arms and military stores, blankets, clothing, small arms, ammunition, salt and hospital stores along with some river boats.

The British were aware of the Patriot encampment, however, the Loyalist Commander, Thomas Brown did not give it much credence at first as he

thought that the reports of troop strength were exaggerated. This gave the Americans a good three weeks to prepare their attack, including ample time to mount a small cannon atop a 30-foot tower fire down upon the fort. *General Andrew Pickens* and *Colonel Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee* led the attack. The British officially surrendered on June 6.

## Stories

*John Milledge* of Savannah, Georgia, Attorney General of Georgia, elected to the Continental Congress and Governor of Georgia. He fought at the siege of Augusta and at Savannah. Source: *The Georgians* by Jeannette Holland Austin, pp 255.

*John Sharp* volunteered under *Colonel Twiggs* and *General Wayne* at Ebenezer, Georgia. He was at the siege of Savannah under *General McIntosh* and the siege of Augusta; also in the battle of Whitehouse in Liberty County under *Colonel Jackson*, serving from 1781 to the end of the war. Source: Pension S31962

After the war, *Lt. Colonel Micajah Williamson*, one of General Elijah Clarke's most trusted officers, hero of the siege of Augusta, was one of the wealthiest men in Georgia. He owned 30,000 acres of land in Wilkes and Franklin Counties, Georgia.

*James Jackson* helped Colonel Clarke take Augusta. As they could not at first take the city, they had to wait for more men. It was several weeks before help arrived from South Carolina. Some of the Georgia soldiers had served out their time and wanted to go home; they were ragged, hungry, weary of war, but they stayed on because they loved Colonel Clarke. After a time, Colonel Clarke was ill with smallpox. Then these soldiers said that they would leave the army and return home. The officer who had taken Colonel Clarke's place could do nothing with them. He begged and made threats, but that did not change their minds. Then he asked James Jackson to help him. Jackson said, "Get the men together and let me talk to them."

Then Jackson rode up in front of their lines. They looked very cross and angry. When he began to speak, they hooted and jeered. But he did not scold them, rather listened. He told them that the British were holding a part of Georgia, their own State. "You are brave men, and you must be heroes and stay the fight to take Augusta from the British." Afterwards, Jackson asked all those who would stay to hold up their hands. The hand of every man went up. They threw up their hats and caps and cheered. They all kept their promise.

When the Revolution ended and the British gave up Savannah to *General Anthony Wayne*, Wayne said: "The keys of the city must be handed not to myself, but to my young brother officer, *Colonel James Jackson*." General Wayne said that Jackson had done more than any other man to take Savannah, so the keys were handed to Jackson. Source: *Makers of Georgia's Name and Fame*, pp 73-75.

*George Bruton* volunteered during the fall or winter of 1780 under *Capt. George Roebuck* and *Colonel Benjamin Roebuck*, meeting at the farm of *Capt. George Roebuck*; and went to guard the frontier (not far from Spartanburg) from the Indians. Upon the return home, the British and Tories were hard-pressed against Georgia, so he volunteered with others under the command of *Capt Lyar Boykin* to join the American army in Augusta, Georgia. The siege of the city was ongoing, with the British, Indians and Tories in possession. The fighting under *General Clarke* lasted four weeks; they entrenched up near the walls until the British, Indians and Tories commanded by Colonel Brown surrendered. The assignment was the guard the prisoners taken during battle until they were sent to Savannah. Source: Pension S30891

### **1781. May 22-June 19. Siege of Ninety-Six, a British Fort**

Hostilities between the Americans and British were not uncommon before the actual war commenced. Such was case at Ninety-Six, as the fort was being occupied and armed. Neighbors went against neighbors, however, as

the war progressed, the identify of Loyalists became widely known to the Americans. They still planted and harvested their crops, enlisting in service at three-month intervals. Basically, the British wore the full compliment of soldier uniforms, and were known as "red-coats." The Americans were more commonly attired.

At the beginning of the hostilities, *William Henry Drayton* and *Rev. William Tennant* were sent by the Governor and Council of Safety into the upper parts of the State to conciliate the inhabitants and prepare them to unite with the people of the low country in resisting the arbitrary measures of Great Britain. Drayton had appointed a meeting to take place at the Ridge on September 1, 1775; however, when he learned that Moses Kirkland had assembled men in arms in the district without the authority to do so, it was evident that his treachery against the colony and force of arms would violate the public peace. So, he cancelled the meeting as a caution against bloodshed. He also declared that all the persons following Kirkland with arms should be deemed public enemies, to be suppressed by the sword! But Kirkland whose home was on the Saluda River was captured while en route to Boston to visit General Gage of the British forces. Arrangements were made for the Cherokee Indians to attack Charleston with General Clinton. The British fleet was repulsed, yet the Indians made war as agreed, which ended in total defeat and ruin. Three volunteer companies had formed to repel the Indians and to keep the Tories in check. In November, as the militia and volunteers assembled at the fortified camp at Ninety-Six under *Major Andrew Williamson* by order of the Provincial Congress. These men were besieged at Ninety-Six by Joseph Robinson, Patrick Cunningham and Richard Pearis, as well as a strong force of Loyalists under their command. There was some fighting and loss sustained on both sides. On November 22, a cessation of hostilities was agreed upon and Major Robinson withdrew his men.

The real battle at Ninety-Six did not commence until 1781.



During the spring of 1781 when *General Greene* invested the fort at Ninety-Six, there was a general gathering of Whigs as well as the Tories to re-enforce Colonel Cruger, the commander of the fort. Cruger himself was a Tory from New York and all of his garrison of five hundred men were Tories, two hundred from New York and three hundred from mostly Ninety-Six in South Carolina. Thus, after General Greene besieged the fort for several days, he was compelled to either raise the siege and retire or to endeavor to carry the place by assault, especially after learning of the approach of Lord Rawdon with re-enforcements. Lord Rawdon was too close for him to wait, and General Greene had to retreat. Lord Rawdon pursued Greene across the Saluda River until he had crossed the Enoree. Lord Rawdon then sent word to Cruger to abandon Ninety-Six and go eastward, south of the Edisto River, while he himself passed down south of the Saluda.

After General Greene crossed the Enoree, he camped for a few days near the Broad River. After Cruger left Ninety-Six, he permitted Cargill's men to visit their homes. On their way, they passed the house of *Captain Solomon Pope*, where they found three of Pope's men, viz: *Aaron Wever, Joe Allen and Fred Sissan*, whom they immediately took as prisoners. But the British soldiers had no place of confinement for the prisoners, so they took them into a swamp on Mine Creek and put them to death! *Captain Pope* immediately called his men together and went to Mount Willing to fetch *Captain Butler* for assistance. The Americans then caught up with the British troops in the fork of Cloud's Creek and Little Saluda. A bloody fight ensued. Cargill's men were completely exterminated!

In the fall of the year *Captain Pope* and *Lieutenant William Butler* caught up with General Greene at Mount Willing. They were in search of Captain James Butler, the father of Lieutenant William Butler who was with General Greene's army, to take command. As Capt. Butler had only recently been released from prison in Charleston, he begged off. Capt. Butler had been confined in Charleston every since the British occupation of Ninety-Six, for having refused to take the oath of allegiance and accept British protection.

However, young James Butler elected to go with the Americans. The pursuit found the British at Farrar's Spring in Lexington where they defeated and dispersed them.

## Stories

British. Part of that party of defeated Tories formed William Cunningham's band of raiders. "Bloody Bill" Cunningham had gained his reputation in South Carolina. Cunningham left Charleston with two hundred men in vicious pursuit of young *James Butler*. Cunningham surrounded the Americans and demanded an unconditional surrender. *Smallwood Smith* was selected to conduct the parley. When he presented himself Cunningham's first demand was: "Who are of your party?" When informed that young James Butler was one, he determined to give no quarter. The conflict began by James Butler killing a man named Stewart, however, Butler was soon killed, and the whole party surrendered whereupon Cunningham ordered the massacre of the whole party. It was then that Captain James Butler caught up a pitchfork and defended himself until his right hand was cut off and he was short dead! William Cunningham is referred to throughout history as Major or Colonel. He is said to have been born in Dublin and came to America in 1774. General Gage appointed him as provost-marshal of the army. In 1778, he had charge of the military prisons in Philadelphia, and later those in New York. In both places he was notorious for his cruelties. It is said that he literally starved to death two thousand prisoners and hung two hundred and fifty without a trial! At the close of the war, he went to England where he was eventually hanged for forgery (1791). Source: History of Edgefield County, South Carolina by John A. Chapman.(1897); Appleton's American Biography.

*Colonel John Ryan* of Edgefield District, South Carolina stating that some time ago, a *Mr. Daniel McKleduff* called on him to know if he had known *Captain Robert McCombs* of Augusta, Georgia, in the last Revolution, known as an officer in the British service, who was at the Siege of Ninety-

Six. McKleduff related that he had never seen nor knew Captain Robert McCombs until 1785 and that he felt it his duty to give public testimony to confute any false and malicious reports injurious to Capt. Robert McCombs. Sworn 11 Mar 1814.

While Lord Rawdon's army was on the retreat from Ninety-Six through the fork of Edisto, *Captain James Ryan*, with his company of fifty ragged militia, resolved to attack the rear guard and capture their baggage. He sent all of his men, except three or four, to make the attack. These three or four sounded their bugles and beat their drums as though there were a large party advancing to the battle. After a sharp skirmish the wagons were captured along with arms, ammunition and clothing, so much so that every soldier was able to take something of it home to his family. Unfortunately, they overloaded themselves with plunder and were overtaken, and captured.

Notes: Capt. James Ryan was a native of Virginia, but removed to South Carolina at a young age, being one of the first settlers to Edgefield County. In the war against the Indians in 1768 he served as a lieutenant against the Cherokees. Ryan took his stand on principles and never changed. He served as captain under *Colonel LeRoy Hammond* and was engaged in many skirmishes. During the fall of Charleston, he asked for british protection but later taken prisoner. placed in irons, and thrown into prison at the battle of Ninety-Six. Later, Capt. Ryan and his comrades were put on a prison ship where some prisoners were exchanged, while others escaped. Apparently American officers were allowed certain freedoms or "british protection". One day he quarreled with some soldiers in the street, and after that, he was called to the doorstep of of a certain lady who wished to help him to escape and advised him to go to a sentinel on the lines and pretend to be a rebel deserter who had been badly treated by the british and wished to enlist another british soldier whom he knew at Monck's Corner to help him. After a few comments, he was allowed to pass. Captain Ryan did not go to Monck's Corner not return to Charleston. Instead, he made his way to the

home of *Colonel Thomas Taylor*, an old friend and schoolmate. Before they reached Granby at the Congaree, they were joined by three other brothers of misfortune. There was no canoe or flat boat, and they could not swim, so Ryan and two others swam and towed them across the river. They were stopped by Tories and he was taken to a Tory camp where he knew they would put him to death. Holley, one of the Tories, grabbed his gun to shoot, but Ryan, with composure, asked him to wait a moment and then appealed to him as a christian and a man against such doings. Holley yielded but took him to the Tory camp, stripped off his coat, hat and boots, took his horse and dismissed him barefooted! Ryan got home, however, collected some of his company and returned to the Tory camp to look for his horse and clothes. The Tories were absent, but an old woman was there in great distress, and begged Ryan not to inure her, but to give her some food. He immediately had a beef killed, cut up, and salted. Soon after leaving the Tory Camp, he captured Holley and a few others. Holley was put to death.

*James Smith* of Union district, South Carolina. "I entered the service about the 15th of September 1778 in Spartanburgh District in Captain John Thomas' company in Colonel Thomas' regiment as one of the drafted militia to serve against the Indians. Next, I joined Major White and marched to the siege of Ninety-Six, the fort being then occupied by Colonel Cruger with the British and Tories. We remained besieging the for under the command of *General Greene* until the enemy were reinforced by Colonel or Lord Rawdon from Charleston." General Greene called a retreat. Afterwards, Smith joined the company commanded by Major *John Ford*, acting as captain, under the command of General Pickens and marched to Bacon's Bridge on the Ashley River and joined the army of General Greene where we were stationed as a check upon the British army, to prevent them from leaving the city of Charleston. . ." Pension S21977.

*William Butler*. In the pension application of Mrs. Beathland Butler, the widow of William Butler, she made some interesting observations, viz:

"During the siege of 96, she saw her husband occasionally, and on one occasion after General Nathanael Greene began his retreat, -- she saw him at William Anderson's where he made a British soldier a prisoner and departed with him in custody to join General Greene or Colonel "Light Horse Harry" Lee. She has been informed that her husband gave Colonel Lee the first intelligence of the near approach of the British for the relief of Ninety-Six. After this, perhaps in the early part of 1782 she saw her husband frequently, while as Captain, he was in command of a mounted Corps, raised under the orders of General Andrew Pickens. Whilst in this service, she saw her husband going to 96 returning from General Pickens, who lived at that time near Long Cane; he was a Lieutenant at the battle of Stono and that before she knew him he was actively employed in the War. She has heard her husband say, that for some time he acted with and served under the command of Count Pulaski." Source: Pension W20803

**July 6, 1781. The Battle of Green Spring Plantation, Jamestown, Virginia.**

This was the plantation of Sir William Berkeley, the former Royal Governor of Virginia

When Lord Cornwallis was about to cross the James River at Jamestown Island, a British dragoon pretending to be a deserter informed the Americans that nearly all of the King's troops had passed over, leaving only a rear guard on the north side. *General Wayne* with the Pennsylvania Line made a furious assault, but found himself confronted by the whole British army! The conflict cost the Americans one hundred eighteen men killed, wounded and captured, along with three cannon, while only eighty of the British were killed and wounded. *Captain Davis* gave a brief account in his diary: "At sun rise we took up the line of march for Jamestown, which place the enemy lay at. The first battery was detached with riflemen which brought on a scattering fire that continued many hours. When the second and third battery arrived in sight, we formed and brought on a general action. Our advances regular at a charge till we got within eighty yards of

their main body under a heavy fire of grape shot, at which distance we opened our musketry at their line. Three of our artillery horses were wounded, and then their right flanking our left, rendered a retreat necessary, with the loss of several pieces of artillery."

Early in 1781 *Charles Cameron* rejoined the war and served as a Captain of the Augusta militia under Colonel Sampson Mathews in lower Virginia on a tour of three-months, and was present at the battle of Jamestown or Green Spring, in June. Source: *Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871* by Joseph A. Waddell.

## Stories

*Nathaniel Norfleet* joined at Suffolk in Nansemond County, Virginia enlisting under *Captain Thomas Walker*, *Lemuel Reddick*, and *Captain Walker*. The company was raised to be in readiness at all times to repeal any invasion by the British and Norfleet stated that this type of enlistment was burdensome than any other because the State of Virginia was scarcely ever free from invasion, at least not until the latter part of the year 1781.

"That this declarants company frequently cooperated with *Captain Coles* company from Gates County North Carolina, with *Captain Knott's* company of Nansemond County, State of Virginia, who was wounded & died in this service. He had been active in annoying the enemy, and the commanding officer of the British offered a reward of five hundred Guineas for his head. When he was wounded by a scouting party of the enemy they took his body, but this declarant with five others rescued him from them."

Norfleet was occasionally under the command of *General Peter Muhlenberg*, *Colonel Josiah Parker*, *Colonel Scaresbook Wells*, *Major Thomas Boykin*, & once under all these officers together, who effected a junction with the design of storming the Fort at Portsmouth Virginia in the possession of the British under the notorious *Colonel Benedict Arnold*. They made frequent faints before the Fort but did not attack as a British fleet

came in, with French colors and was near cutting off the retreat of the American forces, who retreated to Edmonds Hill in North Carolina. The British forces made pursuit and occupied a fortification at the long bridge or Great bridge on Elizabeth River in sight of Edmonds Hill. These positions were occupied by the respective forces for five or six weeks during which they daily annoyed each other, by scouts, cutting off detachments and firing on pickets and sentinels."

When Americans moved next to Nixonton in North Carolina, Norfleet was sent with dispatches to General Lafayette at Richmond Virginia where he was detained by *General Lafayette* until after the defeat of General Wayne at Jamestown. He then returned to his Regiment under *Colonel Parker* which he met in the County of Isle of Wight. Here upon learning that Colonel Tarleton of the British, was advancing upon them\* with a large body of Cavalry Colonel Parker retreated into Blackwater swamp, hit his field pieces, baggage and disbanded his troops. Norfleet with his fellow soldiers from Nansemond returned to that county, concealed their horses, and harassed the enemy at every opportunity, and taking many prisoners.

When Cornwallis moved from Nansemond to Portsmouth, *Colonel Parker* again assembled his forces and Norfleet joined under Captain Thomas Walker in pursuit of the enemy, distressing them as much as possible.

*Colonel Parker* then marched his forces to Surry Court House Virginia where he learned that the French fleet was in the Chesapeake having stopped the retreat of the English. Norfleet was put under the command of *Colonel Wells* and, crossed James River from Swans point to Jamestown, marched thence to a place below Williamsburg where they joined *General Robert Lawson's* Brigade. Norfleet was sent under *Major Jones* towards Yorktown to guard a pass near an old mill where he remained for ten days suffering from hunger. After the surrender of Cornwallis this declarant returned with Colonel Scarebook Wells to Isle of Wight County. There the troops were disbanded until further orders. Source: Affidavit of Nathaniel Norfleet.

Witnesses: Jesse Dickens, Clerk, Nathaniel Norfleet, William McKissack, John Barnett. Sullivan County, Tennessee. Source: Pension application of Nathaniel Norfleet R7692 f36VA

*Isaiah Alley* was marching with a light infantry between the enemy then stationed in their ships at Jamestown, joined the main army commanded by General LaFayette and marched as high as the point of fork on the James River at its confluence with the Rivanna River, guarding the county against the ravages of Lord Cornwallis. When they reached the point of the fork, he marched to Richmond, the enemy having just passed through the town, going on to James Town. At this point, Alley was under the command of General Anthony Wayne. He recalled that the battle commenced in the afternoon and continued until night time. Wayne had two horses shot under him. In this engagement Colonel Boyce behaved disgracefully and cowardly, laying down behind a big tree while begging his men to do so. Later, Boyce was tried by a Court Martial. Alley was on the right wing of the army and the regulars were on the left. A British light horse man had for some time been engaged in endeavoring to ascertain the numbers and situation of the American forces. "And for that purpose would ride rapidly both in front around the extremity of our lines and in the rear of our army." Some of the officers observing this sent for a couple of riflemen. "They were asked if they could shoot well, flying or running." The answer was "they could" and asked for their object. They were shown the dragoon, then moving at the height of horses' speed, they fired and brought both him and his horse to the ground.

*John Pugh* joined the Army commanded by *General Lafayette* and was with it a large portion of the time sometimes pursuing the enemy, and some times retreating before them, being stationed only a short time at a place called new Castle, and a short time at Mobbin Hills. He says he was in no engagement that tour, that he was in hearing of the battle of Old James Town, which was fought by *General Wayne*, and that he arrived at the battle ground that night, but the enemy had retreated, he says he was then



marched in various directions, and to various places in the lower part of Virginia, and was taken sick and got into a wagon and was hauled to Rock Spring in Amherst County, Virginia. Source: Pension S7334.

*John Clements* was at Richmond when the Marquis de Lafayette arrived there from the north on April 29, 1781, stationed at Gilley's Creek. That he was at Turkey Island one night with a small party and had just drawn provisions and was cooking when the enemy came upon them and was very near surrounding them. They escaped and marched upon a hill where ordered to charge their guns and meet the enemy if they advanced. He was present on the James River when the British fired on and blew up a magazine ship in the river; he was on pacquett guard and saw the ship blow up. Source: Pension S12511.

*William Thompson* was drafted a second time during the spring of 1781, and served under *Capt John Brown* of Augusta and *Colonel Bowyer*. His service was principally about Richmond and down towards Williamsburg; that trip that trip was under *Generals Anthony Wayne, General LaFayette and Daniel Morgan*. At Williamsburg they had a skirmish with the British on the Hot Water Plantation, six miles from Williamsburg. Also, he fought in the battle of Green Springs Plantation. When the battle began, the British were said to be across the river (but returned) and his Colonel was taken prisoner, but in a few days, was pardoned. At that point, Thompson was discharged. But during the early part of September his waggon was pressed into service part of the team which belonged to him and one of his neighbors for the purpose of hauling forage and provisions for the army. His waggon was pressed into service by *Colonel Sampson Mathews* who resided in Richmond but needed to go down to Petersburg to haul some loading over to Taylor's Ferry on the Roanoke River south of Boydton. Upon the return, about seven miles from Petersburg, he and his neighbor were pressed to go and haul forage for the American light horse, which or a part of which was stationed there for the purpose of being recruited.

Source: Pension S17729.

*Edward Rutledge* entered service the second time in April of 1781 in Augusta county Virginia as a volunteer for a tour of three months and under the command of *Colonel Thomas Hughart, Thomas Hughart, Major Andrew Hamilton and Capt. Francis Long*, he marched to the general rendezvous in Augusta at a place called Waynesboro and from there to Charlottesville in Albemarle in Virginia. Rutledge, with the other forces, hung upon the rear of Lt. Colonel Banastre Tarleton's Legion (British) until he arrived at Richmond after being in the vicinity of Richmond a short time and maneuvering about in the country around for some time to prevent the depredation of Predatory parties of the enemy. "... we went to old Jamestown where we remained a few days, and along with the forces under *General Anthony Wayne*, and had a sharp skirmish with the enemy at Green Spring Plantation on July 6, 1781. We went then to Burnt Ordinary where we remained a few days and had another skirmish with a British foraging party, we went from there to the vicinity of Williamsburg, at this time the British army lay in Williamsburg. Source: Pension S6032

### **1781. July 16. Skirmish of South Quay, Virginia**

During the Revolutionary War, supplies from overseas were shipped to the thriving port city of South Quay in Nansemond County, Virginia. The supplies were destined for the colonial army and at least two ships were built there. The British destroyed this city on July 16, 1781; however, it was rebuilt after the war. During the war South Quay was an uneasy threat by British invasion because of the fact that any ship entering the Ocracoke Inlet in North Carolina could eventually make its way up the Blackwater River as far as South Quay. Also, the army quartermaster's depot had been established three years before which carried supplies into Suffolk. The British, however, did not attack this town until six months before the surrender of the British in Yorktown. The British took the town with seven hundred men, and burned it down!

## Stories

*Robert Holland* owned a mill at South Quay on the Dirty Branch of Blackwater River. Before the revolutionary war, South Quay was a prosperous town at a convenient inlet; however, when the British found their way down Blackwater River to South Quay, they burned it to the ground. Source: Holland by Jeannette Holland Austion

### **1781. August 4. Battle of Drowning Creek or the Battle of McPhaul's Mill**

The bridge, with a narrow causeway through Raft Swamp on both sides of Drowning Creek in North Carolina, was one of the few places where the stream could be crossed with relative ease, and the causeway formed an ideal place for ambush. McPhaul's Mill was a rendezvous point for Tories.

The action of 4 Aug. 1781 was brought on by *Colonel Thomas Wade* and his Anson County, North Carolina militia, who were determined to disperse a rumored large Loyalist muster at McPhaul's Mill. Wade pursued the Loyalist force, commanded by Colonels. Hector McNeil and Duncan Ray, to Bettis's Bridge, where in an evening engagement that ended at midnight the Loyalists were defeated. Wade had 4 men wounded, and the Loyalists suffered 12 killed and 15 wounded.

*Humphrey Rogers* served in the North Carolina Militia under *James Redfern*; he was in battle with Rogers under *Colonel Thomas Wade* at Drowning Creek when the Tories came in conflict. The evening after the battle, Redfern saw Rogers among the wounded, appearing badly wounded, and a prisoner. Later, Rogers said that he was wounded in the head by a sword. Source: Treasurer's and Comptroller's Records, Veterans Pensions, N. C. Archives.

### **1781 Sept 8th. Battle of Eutaw Springs, South Carolina**

From 1779 to 1781, a bitter war raged across the Carolinas. Both sides suffered severe casualties but stayed in the field. American troops of the

Continental Army and militias fell to the backwoods after the capture of Charleston and Savannah.

Meanwhile, British General Charles Lord Cornwallis moved into Virginia, leaving about 2500 men in the Carolinas.

## Stories

American *General Nathanael Greene* took advantage of Cornwallis's absence and entered the Carolinas with 2,200 regulars. Colonel Banastre Tarleton and "Bloody Bill" Cunningham had made their mark, and South Carolinians were leaving their farms to join militia companies. They wanted to extract revenge from those officers who "gave no quarter" and unmercifully cut down surrendering troops. The word was out.

General Greene had won some minor victories and led his army towards Charleston. British Colonel Alexander Stewart came out to do battle on a patch of hills along the Santee River near the city. His men were low on supplies, but Stewart could not pass up a chance to disable the patriots.

The armies collided on September 8, 1781 near the Wantoot Plantation when Greene's cavalry ambushed British guards in the forest and captured more than four hundred men.

"What a task was imposed upon these young, untried soldiers! Five times did these brave boys, but 400 in number, charge the brigade of British infantry; for hours had they to meet the push of the bayonets....our troops had been forced to yield at every point, and none remained in the field but *Stirling* with the regiment of Maryland and that of Delaware. For nearly four hours they stood in their ranks with colours flying; when *Stirling*, perceiving the main body of the British army rapidly coming behind him, gave the word to retreat. The only avenue of escape was by wading through Gowanns creek; and this passage was almost cut off by troops under Cornwallis. *Stirling* must hold Cornwallis in check, or his whole party

is lost: he ordered the Delaware regiment and one-half of that of Maryland to make the best of their way across the marsh and creek, while he confronted the advancing British with only five companies of Marylanders. The young soldiers flew at the enemy with an unparalleled bravery, in view of all the American generals and troops with the lines, who alternately praised and pitied them. Washington wrung his hands as he exclaimed *My God! what brave men must I this day lose!* Source: Bancroft's US, V 32; Reed's Live of Reed, I, 221.

*William McIntosh* entered service as a volunteer. At the time, one of General Marion's scouts came to the school house where he was going to school. McIntosh was with General Marion and Colonel Lee at the taking of Fort Watson at Scott's Lake in April of 1781; also with General Marion and General Lee at the taking of Fort Mott in May of 1781. He was with General Marion at Georgetown when the town was evacuated by the British troops in June; and, at the battle of Eutaw Springs on the 8th of September 1781. Source: Pension S9424, SC.

*John Daniel* of Wake County, North Carolina and enlisted as Captain in Colonel Malmedy's Regiment for three months to guard the abbeley of North Carolina at Hillsborough. He served five months under Colonel Farmer and was at the battle of Eutaw Springs. Pension: S31683

*William Paulling* enlisted May 12 of 1781 in St. Mathew's Parish, South Carolina under Captain Reid in the 2nd regiment commanded by Colonel Middleton. He was a cavalryman and was sent up country near Fort Granby where the Americans were defeated by the British. There they dispersed and Paulling fell in with General Greene on the Broad River and went on the Cross Roads towards Charlotte in North Carolina. "From thence they came down under the command of Colonel Hampton between the Broad and Saluda Rivers and stopped at East Granby opposite the British fort. They camped for some time on the Congaree River below Granby. There they swam the river and went on down the country by Orangeburg which had

surrendered to the Americans. From thence they went on to Biggins Church and there were cooking when the British cavalry sallied from the church, which had facines all around it, but were driven back by their cavalry. The applicant was engaged in the charge which drove them back into the church. . . . That night the British set the church afire with all their stores and decamped. General Sumter, who commanded, pursued them down past Quinby Bridge which the British crossed and they had to go round some miles. When they overtook the British they were protected by houses and fences. The infantry made an unsuccessful attack upon the houses, but were compelled to retreat. From there, they went to Pinckney's ferry on Santee above Nelson's Ferry, where they crossed the river by swimming. . . ." The battle of Eutaw occurred on 8th day of September 1781. After that, there was much marching. Paulling was charged at the Battle of Eutaw under Colonel Hampton and Major Rutherford, who was killed. Paulling was not wounded. He saw Colonel Washington when he was thrown on his back and his horse fell on him across his leg so that he could not get up and he was taken prisoner. Source: Pension S21407.

*Drury Holland* served five years as a Private; serving under *Colonel Henry Lee and Colonel Washington*; he was in the battles of Guilford Court House and Eutaw Springs, where he received two wounds. Source: Holland by Jeannette Holland Austin, pp 142.

*James Hagan* enlisted as a soldier in the revolutionary army to serve during the war, that he served as such in Capt. John Smith's company, in the fourth regiment commanded at different times by Colonel Mordecai Gist and Otho Holland; removed to the second Maryland regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Ford; that he served in those two regiments from the time of his enlistment in 1776 until August 1783, when he was regularly discharged at Annapolis in Maryland, by Colonel John Gunby. Hagan fought in the battles at Brandywine, Germantown, Camden, Guilford Court House, Eutaw Spriongs, and Camden. He received three severe wounds during the battle near Eutaw Springs, one of which was through the hips. Source:

Pension S36003

*John Purvians* enlisted for ten months under *Capt. William Alexander* of Rowan County, North Carolina, *Major Rutherford* who fell at the Eutaw Battle, who was under *Colonel Wade Hampton*, who was under *General Thomas Sumter*, *General Nathanael Greene*, of the Southern Division. He brought his own horse and bridle, which was lost while General Greene was retreating at Ninety-Six in South Carolina. Purvians was detached in the rear to guard there for two day and nights; then sent along with a Quarter Master Sergeant and four more privates to a mill to fetch meal. While at the mill, they were fired upon by a company of Tories who wounded the Quarter Master and the said Purvings who made their of escape. Source: Pension S32459

### **1781. October 19. Battle of Yorktown, Virginia**

The combined force of the American Continental Army commanded by General George Washington and Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette and French Army troops led by Comte de Rochambeau went against Lieutenant General Charles Cornwallis on October 19th.

During 1780 over five thousand French soldiers landed in Rhode Island. Their function was to assist their American allies to fight the British who controlled New York City. Also, dispatches from France included the possibility of the fleet of *Comte de Grasse* to come from the West Indies. Lord Cornwallis had taken command of the army on the Chesapeake Bay where Henry Clinton had built a deep-water port which the British could defend. *Comte de Grasse* stationed his fleet so as to blockade all possible approaches to York and Gloucester by sea, including the Middle Ground and Cape Henry.

The French fleet arrived off Chesapeake on August 31. Meanwhile, the Americans proceeded up the James River where they found the French fleet of *Marquis de Lafayette* at the mouth of the bay and in the mouths of

the rivers. The French fleet consisted of thirty-six sail of the line with a number of frigates

On September 5th the British fleet under Admiral Graves appeared off Chesapeake Bay and was routed by the French fleet the same day.

## Stories

*Henry Dearborn.*

"The whole Army marched from Williamsburg to Yorktown and incamped near the town; - we have authentic accounts from the southward of an action between General Greene and the enemy in that quarter, in which the enemy lost three hundred killed, four hundred taken prisoners and were totally defeated; our loss was two hundred fifty killed and wounded, among which was a number of officers of distinction . . . ."

"The Treaty between General Washington and his Lordship ended this forenoon by a capitulation being agreed to and ratified by both parties, and this afternoon the troops marched out and laid down their Arms, both at York and Gloucester, amounting in the whole (including those in the hospital), to seven thousand five hundred including officers, one hundred ships and vessels of different kinds were at York when the siege commenced the whole of which were destroyed and taken, about one thousand were in the hospitals of sick and wounded at York and Gloucester were taken seventy four pieces of brass ordinance, between two and three hundred pieces of iron, eight thousand stands of arms and very considerable quantities of ammunition, Quarter Master Stores, clothing and provisions -- The prisoners were sent to the back parts of Virginia and Maryland, except a large portion of the officers which went on parole to New York. . . . I am severely afflicted by the ague and fever. We find ourselves embarrassed for want of teams to transport our baggage, as very nearly the whole of our oxen are dead and sick with distemper not known yet . . . It is not uncommon for cattle to die within two days after the first appearance of the disorder; it is called by



some the bloody murren. The urine of the cattle appears bloody immediately after they are taken and continues so until they die. . . ."

"Nov. 13th. I arrived at the Head of Elk but few of our vessels have yet arrived...the winds have been remarkably unfavorable; we have snow and cold weather. . . Having nearly completed the transporting of the Artillery and stores from the head of Elk to Christiania, where they are to be shipped and conveyed to Philadelphia, I set out with the first division of troops towards Hudsons River; our troops had a very fatiguing march, the weather very unfavorable, frequent storms of both rain and snow . . . *General Heath's* Army had got into winter quarters when we arrived. The New York and Jersey Troops, together with the Park of Artillery winter in Jersey, the Rhode Island troops in Philadelphia, where *General Washington* will remain some part of the winter . . . ."

Source: Fiske, ap. cit., II, 279; Revolutionary War Journals of Henry Dearborn 1775-1783, pp. 218.

Note: The quotes herein and throughout this book were those of *Henry Dearborn* who kept a personal diary. He began his service as a young boy and served a total of eight years, participating in many battles.

Nearing the End . . .

While British commander General Phillips arrived at Portsmouth, Virginia on March 26, 1781 with two thousand men, the State authorities sought to recruit the Continental ranks by again calling out the militia. *Major Posey* of the Continental Army, upon returning to Staunton, Virginia, wrote to Governor Jefferson that according to Baron Steuben's orders he could not enlist any man under 5 feet 4 inches. Meanwhile, Colonel William Preston, the county lieutenant of Montgomery, wrote that "nearly one half of our militia are disaffected, and therefore cannot be drawn into service either by threats or otherwise . . . Moreover, the frontier of our country is exposed to depredations by Indians and the men could not join *Greene's* army without

leaving their families exposed."

In April, *Colonel Samuel McDowell* of Rockbridge wrote to the Governor that a draft was ordered to take place on the 26th, but that the men drawn would be ruined. Most of them were in service during the fall of 1780 and were prevented from sowing fall crops, and to go now would prevent their raising spring crops. His letter continued . . . "This county had, in October last, *Capt. James Gilmore* and forty-odd men in Carolina under *General Morgan* for near four months, and was at Tarleton's defeat at the Cowpens in South Carolina... On Arnold's invasion, *Colonel John Bowyer* marched with about two hundred men down the country. And when *General Greene retreated* into Virginia . . . I, with difficulty persuaded the men to cross the Dan into Carolina and joined General Greene some time before the battle of Guilford Court House, continued with him till after the battle (the 15th of March last), had one captain and four privates killed; two captains, one ensign and seven privates wounded, and *Major Stuart* and four privates taken prisoners..."

On the 25th of April, Cornwallis advanced from North Carolina marching towards Halifax, sending before him **Colonel Tarleton** with one hundred and eighty dragoons; arrived at Petersburg on May 20..

*Robert McCall* was born in County Antrim, in Northern Ireland. He was a strong anti-British partisan in Ireland where he was charged by the Crown with the crime of treason. But he escaped to America in 1775 with his wife and six-month old child. He served under General Daniel Morgan and fought at Saratoga and Yorktown. Source: The McCall Family in Ireland and America by James L. Morganton.

*Thomas Alderson* was born in the County of Bucks in the State of Pennsylvania which place he left when a boy and moved to the County of Shenandoah in the State of Virginia from there to the County of Rockingham where he was drafted into service in 1780 for three months under Colonel Jeremiah Ragan, marched crossing the Blue ridge at Swift

Run gap on to Richmond where he was put on duty to guard the Jail of robbers and Tories, five of which were condemned to hang.

That about the middle of June 1781 he was drafted for twenty days in the light Horse under Capt. Moore at the time the British came up to Charlottesville, he was marched by the way of Swift Run gap in the Blue Ridge on to Richmond when he arrived at the City it was on fire or not yet done burning which was set on fire by the enemy June 18-20. After joining the army he was marched privately to Williamsburg in the night, and when he got to Kent Cour House the British was there. The troops were ordered to turn a little to the left where they remained about two hours for the British to get out of the way Colonel Benjamin Harris. He was drafted in September of 1781 for three months under Capt. Michael Coger, and was appointed by Colonel Daniel Smith as "quartermaster" to furnish the troops; marched by the way of Swift Run gap on to Williamsburg and to York where he joined the army under General Washington; he was at the seize of York, being part of a scouting party commanded by Colonel Lewis and Majot Lockard ejr who went to take a redoubt where several men in his unit were killed. He was present when Cornwallis surrendered. Afterwards, he was appointed go guard prisones for two days; also to take care of the sick and attempt to get them home to Rockingham County which cost him Two Thousand Dollars out of his own pocket that he never got anything for except \$1.25. Source: Pension of Thomas Alderson S8020

*Major Thomas Posey* wrote to *Colonel William Davies* from Staunton on May 18, 1781. "The number of men which I have collected at this place (deserters and others) amount to twenty-one. The draft for eighteen monthers has not yet taken place in any of these back countries, neither can I inform you at what particular time it will. The people seem much aversed to it in Augusta and Rockbridge. . . ."

*Notes: Thomas Posey* went to western Virginia when he was nineteen years of age. It is said that he was an aide to *General Lewis* in the Point Pleasant

expedition against the Indians yet he was also active during the entire Revolutionary War, first appearing as a Captain in the Ninth Regiment commanded by *George Mathews*. Afterwards, he was a Captain in *Morgan's* rifle corps and a Major of *Colonel Febiger's* regiment at the storming of Stony Point and finally, in 1781, he aided in the capture of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. Then, in 1794 *General Posey* served second in command on the Indian campaign with *Mad Anthony Wayne*. Later, he was in the Kentucky State Senate, and succeeded General Harrison as the Governor of Indiana Territory in 1813. Finally, he was the agent for Indian affairs in 1816 before he died at Shawneetown, Illinois on March 19, 1818. Source: *Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871* by Joseph A. Waddell.

*William Tipton* was called out the first of August 1781 to go against the British in the neighborhood of Yorktown, Virginia under the service under the command of *Captain John Galloway*; marched down the country through Botetourt County, Virginia and crossed the country to the James River, below Richmond; continued marching march below Williamsburg to join the main army. The soldiers encamped within twelve miles of York for several weeks. During this time, *General Washington* ordered that fifteen men should be taken to reconnoiter the British lines. William Tipton volunteered, and helped to take two prisoners who had gone out to visit some ladies at a cabin in an old field. The prisoners were then confined and possession taken of their horses. Next, they proceeded to near to where some British were clearing out wheat; took several of their horses and made an escape through the swamp. Tipton intended upon returning to quarters, however, after going a few miles, were overtaken in a lane by the British light horse men and "our whole number was cut to pieces except myself and one other, who made our escape to the woods and retreated into a thicket: – After remaining there some time we came into the road but soon discovered, in sight, three light horsemen in pursuit, – at their approach we presented our guns, and they dashed into the thicket: we thought it prudent not to fire unless we had a certain shot – least we might

be caught with an empty gun; and they were afraid to charge – and in this condition, sometimes in the road & sometimes in the brush, we kept them at bay for about three miles; when they retreated, and we came into camp. After the surrender of York, I saw two of the same fellows, and recognized them, and told their officer the whole history of the matter." Source: Pension S14700.

*Handy Hanly.* After being engaged in making preparations for the attack on Lord Cornwallis he received a wound in his left leg from the bursting of a bomb shell a few days before the surrender of Cornwallis. He was then taken to Williamsburg hospital and after his recovery he was allowed to return home in March 1782. Source: S16401

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### **1782. April. Battle of the Saintes**

*From an account of Ebenezer Fox.*

British Admiral Rodney defeated and captured Count de Grasse. "On the ninth of April, while the French fleet were to the leeward of the island of Dominica, they described the whole British fleet. The Count de Grasse had thirty-three sail of the line, one of which was the Ville-de-Paris, of one hundred and ten guns, the pride of the French navy; five of eighty guns; twenty-one of seventy-four; and the rest of sixty-four guns. Besides the complete crews, there were on board of the fleet between five and six thousand land troops. The British fleet, under Admiral Rodney, consisted of thirty-six sail of the line, one of which was ninety-eight guns; five of ninety; twenty of seventy-four; and the rest of sixty-four. The action began about nine o'clock in the morning. After a furious battle, in which much bravery was displayed on both side, the French admiral thought it expedient to withdraw from the actions, and affected a retreat. After the English had repaired their ships, which had been much damaged, they commenced their pursuit of the French, and came up with them in the vicinity of the islands

of Gaudaloupe, Dominica, the Saints and Marigalante. After exhibiting much nautical skill on both sides, in order to obtain advantageous positions, the hostile fleets commenced their attack, on the twelfth of April, at six in the morning. The battle lasted with unprecedented fury till seven at night. Broadides were exchanged with such rapidity, that the fleets were concealed in the dense smoke, and nothing was visible but the blaze from their guns . . . Finally, the French fleet were thrown into disorder by the sudden change of the wind, of which the English, taking the advantage, bore down upon them, and penetrated their line. The English got to the windward of the enemy, and, forming into a compact line, dealt death and destruction to the french . . . Count de Grasse showed no disposition to yield...not till he saw his fleet in the power of the enemy; his men destroyed, and all hope extinct, that he finally and reluctantly consented to surrender.

"I have related the manner in which I was impressed on board of a French seventy four. Had I not made my escape, I should have unavoidably been an unwilling combatant in the memorable action" of Count de Grasse.

Source: Ebenezer Fox of Roxbury, Massachusetts (biography)

**The last battle of the Revolutionary War was fought in Georgia between Colonel Jackson and some British troops on Skidaway Island, below Savannah, July 25, 1782, also known as the Battle of Long Swamp.**

Major Elijah Clarke. After the Treaty of Paris was signed which officially ended the Revolutionary War, there was a battle with some Indians in Nelson, Georgia. Throughout the war, the British had used various tribes against the rebels. In Pickens, a band of Tories who had settled there in 1776 along with their Cherokee wives systematically committed atrocities along the Georgia frontier. This band of whites and Cherokees were mounted raiders and generally killed all men, women and children when attacking a farmstead. By 1780, all of Georgia and most of South Carolina had fallen into the hands of the British. Yet, Elijah Clarke and thirty men

passed through the Native American lands to continue the fight in the Carolinas. Actually, they were frontier guerrillas who spasmodically attacked the British at Musgroves Mill, Cedar Springs, Woffords Iron Works, Augusta, Fishdam Ford, Long Cane, Blackstocks. His campaigns were partially responsible for the success of the patriots at the Battles of Kings Mountain and Cowpens. The news that the war had ended did not reach Georgia in time to prevent Colonel Andrew Pickens and Major Elijah Clarke from leading small army of Georgia and Carolina Mounted Rifles plus a company of Creek Indian Mounted Rifles on a raid into the North Georgia Mountains. All of the Patriots were dressed in the uniform of the Creek Mounted Rifles. The first two villages which the army of General Pickens visited, did not contain any whites. The third one did. After the first attack the Cherokees and whites surrendered but in the process allowed the Tories to escape. As a peace offering, the Cherokee chief offered Pickens a Treaty written in English, which gave the Americans the Creek-owned lands in northeast Georgia. After that, the Mounted Rifles discovered the place where the Tory guerillas were hiding and attacked. At the end of the skirmish, all of the Tories who had not been killed in battle were hung on the spot including the wounded. All during the service of Major Clarke he had received wounds, as well as catching the smallpox and the mumps then running rampant in the ranks. After the war, for his devoted service throughout, Clarke was given a plantation and several thousands of acres in land grants.

## Stories

*Lieutenant. William Jordan was wounded in the thigh with a musket ball by the Tories; released from prison at Wilmington, N. C. When Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, Va. On 10/19/1781. Notes: Lieutenant William Jordan was born 1744 in Richmond, North Carolina, died Sept 23, 1826 in Warren County, Georgia. Military service was under Gen. Nathaniel Greene.*

## **1782. July 11. British Evacuation of Savannah**

After the Surrender of the British, General Mad Anthony Wayne Goes to Savannah

"Mad Anthony" Wayne, as he was called, was popular on account of the impetuosity of his charges.

After the surrender, Brigadier General Anthony Wayne rushed to Savannah, Georgia. Ahead of him was the departure of the traitors - loyalists, mostly the Scottish population, who left behind vast estates. Mad Anthony was to be awarded one of these confiscated estates for his military service. The stories told in Georgia relate how Mad Anthony Wayne rode astride his horse through a destroyed and ransacked town, his heart sank.

His fame was made early in his career. First, however, his job was that of a tanner and surveyor, before being elected to the Pennsylvania General Assembly and helped to raise a militia unit in 1775 during the battle of Monmouth in 1777. He was at Stonypoint, the invasion of Quebec and Yorktown. His military career delivered a repetition of making hasty decisions, which earned him the title of "Mad Anthony Wayne."

The British occupation had disrupted homes and buildings and taken everything of value. He did not get to choose one of the abandoned loyalist plantations, and being dissatisfied with the land given him, remained but a short while and he represented Georgia in the House of Representatives. In 1783 he was promoted to Major General and accepted a command in the Northwest Indian Wars where his forces successfully defeated the Western Confederacy of Indian Tribes at the 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers in Alabama.

After the wars, the veteran soldiers who had already sacrificed so much, went about the business of building homes, farms, plantations, shops, etc. They gave their families hearth and home. Source: History of the United



States by Eggleston, p. 184.

### **Concessions of the British.**

Early in 1782 the British Parliament, perceiving the futility of attempts to subdue the Americans, began to listen to the voice of reason and humanity, and took steps to establish peace between the United State and Great Britain, upon the independence of the former. On March 4th the House of Commons passed a resolution in favor of peace, and active hostilities ceased. Preparations were made for the evacuation of Savannah and on July 11th, the British army evacuated a more than a three-year occupation. "Mad" Anthony Wayne, in consideration of the services of Colonel James Jackson, appointed him to receive the keys of Savannah from a committee of British Officers, all of which was performed with dignity. A special meeting of the Legislature in Savannah was called about three weeks later. They assembled in the house of General McIntosh.

Between the 12th and 25th of July, 1782, seven thousand persons (according to British accounts) left Savannah (with the British), consisting of twelve hundred British regulars and Loyalists, five hundred women and children, three hundred Indians and five thousand Negroes.

### **Where the Loyalists went**

Governor Wright of Georgia and some of the civil and military officers went to Charleston; General Clarke and part of the british regulars went to New York; Colonel Brown's rangers and the Indians went to St. Augustine, Florida, and the remainder under convoy of the "Zebra Frigate", the "Vulture Sloop-of-war" and other armed vessels, went to the West Indies. It is estimated that nearly seven-eighths of the slaves in Georgia were carried off by the british, on this and other occasions.

Loyalist. Robert Cunningham was born in Ireland in 1739; he settled in Ninety-Six, South Carolina where he became a judge. He opposed the cause of the colonies and in 1775 was imprisoned in Charleston. After his release

he joined the British forces and was commissioned Brigadier General. His estate was confiscated in 1782; he left the county and was not allowed to return. He died in Nassau in 1813. Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp 263.

Loyalist. William "Bloody Bill" Cunningham, was a Major or Colonel in the British army. He was appointed provost-marshal by General Gage. In 1778 he had charge of the military prisons in Philadelphia, and later those in New York; in both places he was notorious for his cruelties. It is said that he starved two thousand prisoners to death, and hung two hundred and fifty without a trial! When the war ended, he went to England where he was hanged in 1791 for forgery. Source: Annals of Augusta County Virginia 1726-1871 by Joseph A. Waddell, pp 263,

### **1781-1782. The Surrender of Lord Cornwallis**

On the morning of October 17, 1781 a british officer followed a drummer, waving a white handkerchief, surrendered to the American army. The officer was blindfolded.

Lord Cornwallis had asked for the traditional honors of war...to allow the army to march out with flags flying, bayonets fixed, and the band playing an American or French tune as a tribute to the victors. General Washington, however, flatly refused to grant the British the same honors which the british had denied a year before at the siege of Charleston. Lord Cornwallis, pretending that he was ill, refused to attend the surrender ceremony and his deputy presented the reluctant Cornwallis sword to General Lincoln.

After this famous surrender by the British, there were a few more skirmishes which occurred in Georgia in 1782. The Parliament of Great Britain did not formally concede until July of 1782.

About Lord Cornwallis

The surviving son of *Benjamin Perkins*, who died in Garrard County

Kentucky (1845), made a pension application stating that his father served at different events during the war. He often heard his Father speak of Lord Cornwallis who commanded the British forces at the time he was in the American Army – and of his being the most humane and generous officer in the British service, and of many little incidents which happened to him while in the service aforesaid. He also remembers of hearing his Mother say that while his Father was out in arms, Lord Cornwallis was passing through the Country with his troops ahead of him when they got to his Father's house they stopped and commenced taking such articles as they wanted – and tried to make her tell where her husband had gone – and that she had to tell them that she was a widow to prevent their outrages on account of her husband being in the American service. That when Lord Cornwallis came up he treated her with much respect, and even kindness ordering the soldiers out of the house, and took dinner and after dinner she put up some butter and other little things for him, all of which he received with seeming pleasure and many thanks. This affiant states that his father was a very careless man about his business and particularly his papers – that in removing from Virginia to this State most of the papers that he then had were lost – And he supposes his any discharge was lost about that time.

Source: Pension S11223

## Addendum

### **Deprivations of those Left Behind**

Some of the deprivations of those left behind to suffer during or after the war may be found in the Military Affairs of Georgia..

pp. 39. 1781. Savannah. "That in the year 1781, my husband, John McDaniel through surprises joyned the British at Savannah, and soon after died with the smallpox. Left your petitioner with three children to support in a most perishable situation...with a few cows and hogs which was soon wrested from your peitioner's hands before any confiscation took place...." Mary

McDaniel.

pp. 45. February 12 1782. "It is with reluctance that I trouble you, but my necessity is pressing. The *fate of War has deprived me* of a husband who fell fighting for his country which by an Act of the last Assembly entitled me to an Annuity from the State, but which such is the present situation of this country that I have no reason now to expect it - I only have now to request that your Honorable Board will be pleased to order me a quantity of corn sufficient to support myself with *a family of nine persons* which has no other means of substance. . . . " Susannah Osborn

### **Diseases and Epidemics Struck Hard.**

Some of the dangerous diseases during the war was the outbreaks of measles and smallpox. An outbreak commenced among the troops of *General George Washington*. There was no medical science to protect the soldiers from outbreaks in crowded and unhygienic troop camps. Although it is not known where the outbreak began, however, the epidemic was not limited to the colonies on the Eastern seaboard, nor to the areas ravaged by battle activities. The disease ravaged through British-occupied Boston and the Continental Army's invasion of Canada. Smallpox attacked the slaves who had fled to the British lines, and prisoners on ships. By 1778 and 1779, the disease had fallen on New Orleans where it had a huge impact and across the Great Plains and Mexico. It is estimated that smallpox killed nearly 11,000 Native Americans and 130,000 soldiers of war.

### **Marines and Private Vessels**

Americans also enlisted in the service as marines; however, Great Britain sent its fleet to fight the Americans. When Fort Moultrie surrendered to General Sir Henry Clinton and Capt. Charles Hueson of the "HMS Richmond", five hundred Royal Marines were on Sullivan Island.

### **Stories**

*William Dove* removed from Maryland to Fairfax County, Virginia with his parents when quite young. In August of 1777 when the British landed at Elk River and marched towards Philadelphia, he volunteered under Capt. Thomas Pollard and Colonel Rumley of Alexandria, enlisting as a Marine onboard a ship called "George Washington" destined to carry dispatches to France. He sailed to France with Capt. Francis Speake and Lieutenant Samuel Walker. In March of 1780, he enlisted again as a seaman under Capt. Samuel Walker and Capt. Flagg and sailed for Amsterdam in Holland. In July of 1781 he was appointed corporal by old Capt. Thomas Pollard and marched to Malvern Hills below Richmond, Virginia. Source: Pension S8336

*Michael Kalteissen* served as a lieutenant in the German Fusiliers of Charleston during 1775 before resigning to become Wagonmaster General of the Provincial Army of South Carolina. He also served as a captain of the marines aboard a frigate "South Carolina". Source: Council of Safety, 2 Dec 1775; Yearbook, 1885; A.A.404;M.A.4154A;Y822;Z37

*Jacob Dooley.* "The Commonwealth of Kentucky, Clarke County, Sct. On this 19th day of June 1818, before me the subscriber, one of the Judges of the circuit court, in and for the state aforesaid, personally appeared Jacob Dooley aged about 63 years; who being by me first duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath, make the following statement and declaration, in order to obtain the provision made by the late law of Congress entitled, an Act to provide for certain persons engaged in the land in Naval Service of the United States in the Revolutionary War; that he is a citizen of the state of Kentucky, and resident in the county of Madison; and that he was enlisted for one year at Vance's Old field in the state of Virginia on or about the \_\_\_ day of 1775 by one Campbell and served in the company commanded by captain said Campbell untill duly discharged that he again inlisted for two years on this day the 1776 in Capt. Gross Scrugg's company fifth Regiment Virginia line there commanded by Colonels Charles Scott and afterwards by Colonel Josiah Parker that this Regt. was a Continental establishment that he continued to serve in the said last mentioned corps,

or in the service of the United States, in the continental army, against the common enemy, until about the \_\_\_ day of 1778 when he was honorably discharged from service at the Valley forge in the state of Pennsylvania; that he was in service about three years

That these statements are made from memory only, But can prove this most of them by Maj. John Campbell of Clarke County who served in Capt. Scrugg's company with him and that he is in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support; and that he has lost his discharge, and has no evidence in his power, of his service and discharge, other than that which is here transmitted. Sworn and declared .before me the day and year aforesaid. /d/Jas. Clark, Circuit Judge.  
Source: Pension 1 W1837

*John Ball and Hunter Banks* were owners of the Brigantine "Willing Lass"; that on March 4, 1781, the said ship was docked in Port on the James River , commanded by *Capt. William Lewis*. The cargo consisted of one hundred eighty-three hogsheads of crop tobacco from the warehouses of Shockoes and Byrd; mounting twenty guns, a considerable quantity of good muskets, ammunition, and stores. Equipped for sea, the vessel was destined for St. Eustatius, and afterwards, France. When the capture of that island was announced, the said Brigantine was riding at anchor in James River, commanded by *Thomas Williams* . On March 4, Governor Thomas Jefferson, meditating a descent upon the Garrison of Portsmouth in conjunction with a French squadron then daily expected, within the capes, issued an order for engaging voluntarily, or impressing all the armed vessels of private property, which could be immediately collected together with the whole of their equipments, directing them to be employed for war. That the said William Lewis and Thomas Williams obeyed the impress made of the said ship and Brigantine and were assured by a letter from Gov. Jefferson dated in Council on the 8th of March 1781, and hereto annexed, that their vessels, and their loading were considered as at the risk of the state, and that a reasonable hire should be paid for the use of the said

vessels and their crews: That the said Ship and Brigantine after having been first appraised by order of the Governor were actually employed in public service and with the military view of aforesaid for the space of twenty-six days. 30th day of the same month, in the same year: That during this time it was notorious that the said ship and Brigantine had frequent opportunities of getting out to sea, without danger of capture, since many vessels did actually sail from James River and escaped into the ocean, and afterwards arrived at their destined ports in safety, and since the British cruisers were obliged to confine themselves within Elizabeth River, from an apprehension of the French Naval armament, which remained in the neighborhood of Portsmouth for a considerable time. That on the said 30th day of March 1781, the said Ship and Brigantine being discharge from public service, could not prosecute their intended voyages, by reason of the derangement which took place in consequence of their having been impressed as aforesaid, and of the arrival of a large British fleet of ships of war in James River: that the said Ship and Brigantine attempted to elude their hostility by preceding up the said River to Osbourne's warehouses, being the highest point of navigation for vessels of their burthen: That the British fleet also moving up the said River and the British lay enforces marching to Osbourne's, the said ship and Brigantine were sometime in April 1781 captured with their rigging, tackle, apparel, furniture and cargo, and were wholly lost to your Petitioners respectively for which loss, they have hitherto received no compensation nor indeed have they as yet obtained any satisfaction for the Services rendered to the Commonwealth; by the said Ship and Brigantine, except a small Sum on account of the wages of the Mariners of the said Ship and a small Sum on account of the wages of the Mariners of the said Brigantine. The preceding circumstances being considered to wit that the destruction of the Ship and Brigantine aforesaid was obviously and directly occasioned by the delay incurred from the assumption of them into public Service, that the Governor of the Commonwealth insured them at the time of impressing them, and that it is stipulated by the act of the general assembly, which establishes the board

of Auditors, that property consumed, lost or destroyed in public service should be paid for by the public, your Petitioner's doubt not, and pray that the honorable the General Assembly will give them such relief for the damages which they have sustained in these instances, as justice and equity may require. Ball and Hunter, Banks & Co., their petition May 28, 1782.  
Pension: VAS1841

*John Wheeden* entered the service in a company of Duplin militia under *Captain John Williams, Samuel Houston Lieutenant*, in a Regiment commanded by *Colonel Thomas Rutledge*, in the brigade of *General Moore*, being ordered out to go against the British then on board their Fleet in Cape Fear River below Wilmington, North Carolina in the spring of 1777 where he served three months. He volunteered again during the summer of 1777, that he was a volunteer that he was in no battle; that he marched from Duplin to Wilmington, thence into Brunswick County at Orton's Mills, and there stationed; thence back to Wilmington where he was discharged. Re-enlisted several more times. Source: S7875.

*John Kilby* testified that on August 6, 1776 he shipped on board the brigantine "Sturdy Beggar" of fourteen guns commissioned by *Capt. James Campbell* in the Town of Vienna, Maryland, Dorchester County the place where he was born, then went to New Bern, North Carolina where the brig then lay. "We then sailed on a Cruise, and on or about the 28th day of November same year, we fell in with a Glasgow Brig of six double fortified six Pounders and after a small action of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour we explored her and on the 1st December same year, we fell in with the ship "Smyrna, a Gally of 18 guns and after an action of  $\frac{1}{2}$  an hour we captured her." Kilby was put on board the "Prize" ship, and on 9th day of the same month, was captured by the Resolution fourteen, commanded by Sir John Chandler Oglesby, and carried into Spit head (England) and after remaining on board the guard ship nearly four months was then carried to Hazel Hospital, and after going through a pretended trial, the then sitting Judge, after calling over all of our names pronounced sentence in these words, to wit: "You are all



condemned for piracy and high treason on His Majesty's high seas. The ship's Crew was then sent up to Portsea Jail under a strong guard of Soldiers "where we lay in the cold sweating Brick Walls near twenty two months, after which one hundred of us were exchanged over to France. We arrived in the Port of Penhap [the narrative says Paim Boeuf], then went up to the City of Nantes where we remained eight days. A letter was drafted and sent by Post over to Capt. John P. Jones then lying in the port of L'Orient, requesting him to send over an officer and that we wished to ship on board his ship. The letter was sent, and he sent over two officer (the sailing master and gunner) about 33 of us entered and signed the Ship Bonhomme Richard's articles for twelve months, on or about 1st April or May 1779 after which we sailed on a Cruise from the Port of L'Orient, where the ship then lay, but before we sailed, we all received twenty french crowns from Mr. Moylan, the Continental agent. The before named Cruize is well known to the whole world and needs no explanation from me. I will only say on 23 November 1779 we fell in with the "Serapis" of forty-four, commanded by Richard Pearson and after an action of nine four hours of which were side and side we captured her. I was an officer, first a midshipman and in the action master's mate our ship, the "Bonhomme Richard" sunk within twenty-four hours after the action, we took charge of the "Prize" ship and arrived save in Holland where we lay a long time, after which our Capt. was by *Doct. Benjamin Franklin*, ordered to take charge of the "Alliance" frigate of 36 gun, and the then commander Peter Landais , ordered to go to Perris, we at length sailed on a cruize, went into Croney (Spain) where we lay some small time. We again sailed on a Cruize after which we arrived in the Port of L'Orient, where we first sailed from. Our *Captain John Paul Jones* went to Paris, and on his return our Ship was all ready to sail for the Port of Boston (America) but by some means the former Captain of the "Alliance"; Peter Landas, got on board of the Ship which Capt. Jones and some of his principal officers were on shore. The reason why it happened was this: the two ship's crews were as soon as Jones took charge of the "Alliance", altogether and both officers and men

could not endure each other as Landas was accused of disobeying the Orders of Jones. The Commodore of the Squadron and generally called a Coward by all the officers and men of the crew of that good ship called the "Bonhomme Richard", the officers of the "Alliance" to get Landas their Captain in the ship again, his officers got him on board while Jones was on shore. Landas when on board, weighed anchor and went to Sea. We at length arrived safe in Boston where Landas was tried. . . ." Source: Pension S38119.

## **Spies**

It is generally known that General George Washington had a number of spies in service. The ones used were generally intelligent, cool-headed, skillful and brave as he would ask them to enter the camp of the enemy. Several will be named here.

When Benedict Arnold fled to New York after his treason, the American spies, concluding that Arnold must have been acquainted with their names and residences, were panic-stricken.

*Captain Nathan Hale, martyr-spy* was a recent graduate from Yale College, had been educated for the ministry, and was patriotic. When his friends tried to dissuade him, he said "I owe my country the accomplishment of an object so important. I am fully sensible to the consequences of discovery and capture in such a situation. But for a year I have been attached to the army, and have not rendered any material service, while receiving a compensation for which I made no return. I wish to be useful, and every kind of service necessary for the public good becomes honorable by being necessary." Hale dressed as a Dutch schoolmaster, putting on a suit of plain brown clothes, and a round, broad-brimmed hat. When the British crossed over into New York, he followed them, making his way to Long Island and there entered a tavern to converse with the guests. Things went well for a time, however, he was eventually taken prisoner by the British. Just before they hanged him, he was asked if he had anything to

say. Hale replied "I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country!"  
Source: Revolutionary Heroes, and Other Historical Papers Historical Classic Readings-No. 10 by James Parton.

*Horace Greeley*, a former printer's apprentice in Vermont, adopted the disguise of a peddler. Source: Revolutionary Heroes, and Other Historical Papers Historical Classic Readings-No. 10 by James Parton.

*Culper Senior and Culper Junior*, the disguised names of two spies who were quite successful, and served to the end of the war. Their communications were written with invisible ink and their identities was never disclosed.  
Source: Revolutionary Heroes, and Other Historical Papers Historical Classic Readings-No. 10 by James Parton.

*Peter Bonnett* first enlisted in 1779 or 1780 to serve a tour of eighteen months in the Virginia, under *Captain Jonathan Coburn* in Harrison County, Virginia wherein they were sent below Pittsburgh to guard against the Indians; so to build boats; proceeded down the Ohio River and halted at Neal's Station where a company of Captain Sylvester Ward was. Peter Bonnett and his brother, *Lewis Bonnett* were ordered to act as Indian Spies from April to October under the command of their Ensign *Benjamin Sills* and belonged to Capt. Coburn's company. He, and his brother Lewis Bonnett spied in what is now Mason, Jackson, Wood, and Tyler Counties.— The whole station and spies were under the control of *Colonel Duvall* who was occasionally there declarant was discharged in October 1780 or 1781. He was then prevailed on by his Capt. Coburn to agree to continue another year to act as an Indian Spy who urged the exposed situation of the frontier parts of Virginia as a plea, stated that it was easy to detect Indians along the Ohio who were marching against the settlements, and thus prevent much massacre. Bonnett had already served eighteen months as a private soldier, as a militia man and Indian Spy from march 1779, or 1780, till October 1780, or 1781. — He consented to serve another year and again entered as well as he can now say in October 1780 to serve one year as an

Indian Spy. He and his brother Lewis, spied in now Mason, Jackson, Wood, and, counties in Virginia. The following winter in Virginia of 1780-1781 was one of great severity in which the troops all rendezvoused at the mouth of little Kenhawa, suffered exceedingly from cold and scarcity of provisions when the spring came which was in March 1781, declarant continued his spying on the same tract of Country under Capt. Coburn until October 1781, or 1782 when he was discharged and went home having served one year this last tour as a private soldier, and Indian Spy. Source: Pension S5293.

*Edward Harbert* . Spring of 1780 he volunteered at Grundy's block house in a Company of Rangers or Indian Spy's commanded by *Capt Thomas Read* employed in scouting and spying between the said Blockhouse and the Ohio River a tour of six months, that in the Spring of 1782, he volunteered in a Company of Rangers or Indian Spy's commanded by *Capt Joseph Gregory* and was employed in scouting and spying between Grundys block house and the Ohio River a tour of six months, and he neaver had any writing discharge in all of his tours he served as a private, and while so engaged he was not employed in any civil persuit and the fact is there was not Regular Officers who were with the troops where he served. Pension S15448.

## **Trials and Hangings of Tories**

### **Stories**

Date of Trial: October 14, 1780. *Horatio Sharpe* was a well known Loyalist during the war; his name was mentioned in the Court Martial trial minutes of Colonel Charles McDowell of Burke County North Carolina in 1782. In the trial, James Blair described the bad character of both Benjamin Whitson and Horatio SHarpe. He related how they took his guns and later robbed him of several articles. Whitson and Sharpe were active Loyalists at Ramsour's Mill and King's Mountain, where they were captured. In his pension application, Joseph Roger James describes himself as an eye-

witness to the Trial at Bickerstaff's. "...where one Race SHarpe and many others of the Tories who had been taken prisoners were hanged. . ."

The trial attracted world-wide attention, as twenty-one Tories were condemned to death. Source: Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina, Vol 2, pg 282; Lyman C. Draper, Kings Mountain and It's Heroes.

*Greenberry Wilson* was listed as a suspect Tory and appeared in Court in 1782 to show cause why his property should not be confiscated. His neighbor, *Birchfield*, was also a Loyalist. Source: Revolutionary War Soldiers of Western North Carolina, Vol 2, pg 314.

*Adam Runner*. Charges were brought against Adam Runner in 1779 and he was found guilty of having Tory sentiments, being fined 250 pds. Source: Early Adventurers on the Western Waters, by Mary B. Kegley, Vol. II, pg 397.

*Samuel Ingram* had a mill on Peak Creek in Augusta County, Virginia. In the summer of 1774 there was much trouble with the Indians, however, the Ingram family was among those families who chose to remain at home rather than to take refuge in a nearby fort. He had an indentured servant, Thomas Walsh, who ran away and was absent for twenty six days. When Ingram took the matter into court, it was decided that Walsh had one year and five months left to service. In 1780, however, Samuel Ingram and his sons, Jonathan and James, were tried for being Loyalists. Samuel was found guilty and ordered to the Augusta jail for further trial, but the two sons volunteered to enlist in the American army until December 31, 1781. Source: Draper Mss., 3 QQ 54; Summers, Annals, p. 643; Preston Papers, Draper MSS., 5 QQ 68-72.

In 1779, Jeremiah *Patrick* was charged with being an enemy of the country, and had to post bond for his good behavior in value of 1,000 pds. Hugh Patrick and John Harris were security for the bond, and they both took the oath of allegiance to the State of Virginia. Source: Summer, Annals, p. 721;

Kegley, Militia, pp. 52, 58.

*Joseph McDonald* of New Castle, Delaware, removed to Virginia in 1745 and established his "Draper" plantation of seven thousand, five hundred acres on Tom's Creek on New River in Augusta County, Virginia. In 1770 McDonald reported that he had grown 890 pounds of hemp, and it is believed that he made gun powder. However, in 1780, Joseph McDonald was tried as a Loyalist, along with many of his neighbors. Source: Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 397,465; Kegley, Frontier, p. 330

*William Preston*. There were hazards of living among the Loyalists during the time of the Revolution. This is clearly seen in a letter written by William Preston to his neighbors. Preston had received word that a number of people disaffected to the government intended to attack his house and take the arms belonging to the State. Preston reacted by calling together several heads of families and informing them. The men gave him assurance that they intended no harm to Preston. Preston noted that he had been informed that a Bloody and Murderous Company was discovered in a different part of the county, which was almost ripe for execution; that a party of men were sent out and some of the conspirators taken, part of whom were in confinement and the great part admitted to bail. After this occurred, Preston again had reports of the activities of the Tories in the neighborhood, and again called a meeting of the leaders. Source: Early Adventurers on the Western Waters, Vol. I, by Mary G. Kegley, pp.248-249; Letter filed at Virginia State Archives, Richmond, Auditor's #230 folder.

*William Ingle* numbered among those suspected of treason and misbehavior in Augusta County, Virginia. The Tory trials occurred during August of 1780. Nothing was ever proved against him and his bond was valued at 100,000 pds. Ingles was not only a leader in the local militia, but he also served as a justice of the peace for Augusta and Botetourt Counties. Notes: William Ingles arrived from Ireland on the North fork of the Roanoke River before 1746. During the summer of 1755, the Indian depredations

continued on the waters of the New River. The settlements on the Holston, Reed Creek, and the New River had all been ravaged. The Ingles cabin was attacked and burned, and *Colonel James Patton* who was visiting there was killed. *Mary Ingles* and her children were prisoners along with *Bettie Draper* (wounded). Her mother-in-law, *Eleanor Draper*, and *John Draper's* infant child was killed. *Casper Berger*, a neighbor, was killed, and *James Cull* wounded.

Source: *Adventurers on the Western Waters*, Vol. I, by Mary G. Kegley, pp. 352, 355.

### **The Liberty Pole**

During the revolutionary era, a wooden pole was used as a meeting place when large trees were not available in public places. The wooden pole was a sign of commitment to the American cause of freedom.

### **Privateer Ships in the War**

Armed merchant ships were granted letters of marque which gave them the authority to challenge any likely enemy vessel which crossed its path during the course of a commercial voyage. The captain, with the authority to protect merchandise being shipped into the colonies, could fire on the British. Vessels of every size and description were pressed into service as privateers. Privateers achieved the best results by bluffing a British vessel into believing that opposition was fatal. If the privateers lost, the sailors ended up as prisoners.

### **Stories**

Prisoner. *William Maxwell* came to Georgia in 1752 and settled on the Midway River. He served as a Captain and as a privateersman, commanding his own armed vessel. In 1779, however, he was captured and kept by the British until after the evacuation of Savannah on July 11,

1782.

Notes: William Maxwell was born 1739 in Amelia Township, South Carolina and died Bryan County, Georgia in 1752.

### **The Terror of the Tories**

*Captain William Cone* was a thorn in the side of the British army, a virtual terror of the Tories. William Cone's family hailed from Haddain, Connecticut, with William Cone being born 1745 on the Pee Dee River in North Carolina. Cone was an ardent patriot and served in McLean's Regiment under *General Francis Marion*. When the notorious Tory, McGirth and his followers were terrorizing that part of the State, it was learned that *Mr. Cargill* harbored the Tories and gave them information about the Whigs. Cargill was advised that it meant death if he was again found in the company of McGirth. Not long afterwards, when Captain Cone was hunting deer on the Ogeechee, he saw them together in the woods. He shot Cargill, but McGirth escaped, and the next day when they went to bury the dead man, it was found that the *wolves had almost devoured Cargill's body*.

At another time, the Tories fell on an unsuspecting settlement and stealing the horses of the settlers there, carried away everything possible. Headed by *Captain Cone*, the settlers pursued them down into what is now Tattnall County, Georgia. Close on their heels, they found them after a shower of rain. The Tories sent one of their number forward to reconnoiter. The approach of this man became known to the Tories through one of the stolen horses, and one of their number, starting out to learn the cause of their confusion, was shot dead by the scout who was concealed behind a long. This was the signal for the attack, and the patriots rushed forward, driving the Tories into the Ochopee river, and recovered their stolen goods. It is said that this raid broke the power of the Tories in that community. Upon the return of Captain Cone to his plantation after the war to his home near Riceboro, he found that the "Tranquil Plantation" had been occupied



by the British General Prevost, commander of the British troops in the South and his officers. On the wall of the sitting room, he found branded on the boards: "This house was the home of a nest of rebels", which brand remained on the wall until a few years after the Confederate war, when, *Dr. Samuel Way*, who then owned the property, destroyed it while making repairs. The British had heard that a pot of gold was buried on the plantation, and spent much time digging in the yard without any luck. Source: *Men of Mark*, Vol. II by William J. Northen.

*Captain William Scott* enlisted in the 3rd Georgia Battalion commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel John McIntosh. The records show that he was a Minuteman raised by the defense of the State in 1777 and that he was in service at the time the said battalion was reduced in March of 1778. Source: Captain Scott's name appears on a payroll of the battalion covering the period from November 1, 1799 to February 1, 1782 showing time of service as thirteen months; Records of the Adjutant General in Washington, D. C. show that Scott served as a captain in the 3rd Georgia Regiment commanded by Colonel John McIntosh.

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