

MARTIN, JOHN, governor of Georgia (1782-83), first appeared in the public service as naval officer at the port of Sunbury, being appointed to that position by Gov. Wright in 1761. He was a warm patriot and the people of Savannah chose him as a representative in the provincial congress of 1775, and on the important council of safety. In 1781 he was a lieutenant-colonel in the continental army and the same year was elected to the legislature from Chatham county. As governor of Georgia in 1782 his administration saw the British evacuate Savannah July 11, 1782, and the commonwealth given her full power as a sovereign state. While governor so great was the distress of affairs that he had to apply to the legislature for relief to keep his family from starving, not being able to get his salary. In 1783 he was appointed a commissioner to make treaty with the Cherokee Indians and the same year was elected treasurer of state.

HAWLEY, RICHARD, governor of Georgia and congressman, was born near Savannah about 1740. He obtained a good education and met with success in law. First representing Liberty county in the state assembly, he rose to distinction and in 1780 was elected governor. He also represented his state in the continental congress in 1780-81. During his executive term the state was overrun by the British and on advice of the legislature Gov. Hawley and his council fled the state for the time. When it looked as if Georgia would be delivered to Great Britain, he with others of the delegation in congress published a remonstrance which was given to the press in 1781 at Philadelphia. He died in Savannah December, 1784.

HEARD, STEPHEN, was born in Ireland and was governor of Georgia in 1781. He fought with gallantry in the Revolution and in 1773, with other Virginians, settled in Wilkes county, Ga., being attracted by the fertility of the lands in the "Broad river county." He served in the revolution under Col. Elijah Clarke and distinguished himself at Kettle creek. Feb. 18, 1781, he was elected president of the council, in the absence of Gov. Hawley, and thus became governor de facto until Gov. Brownson was elected, Aug. 16, 1781. He retired to private life after the war and became one of Wilkes county's most influential citizens. He died Nov. 15, 1815.

BROWNSON, NATHAN, governor of Georgia and congressman, is supposed to have been born about 1740. In 1761 he was graduated from Yale, and studied medicine. Introduced by Dr. Dunwoody, a revolutionary patriot, he began practice in Liberty county and was the first physician to practice south of the Ogeechee before the revolution. He was a surgeon in the Georgia brigade, a member of the provincial congress of Georgia in 1775, of the continental congress in 1776-78 and member of the legislature and speaker of the house in 1784. He was elected governor by this body. He was senator and president of the senate, 1789-91. Gov. Brownson was a man of a retired disposition, dignified in demeanor and of a forceful character. He died in Liberty county, Ga., Nov. 6, 1796. He was a surgeon in the continental army and took much interest, when governor, in the establishment of the state university.