

## XV.

## CAPT. JAMES RYAN.

Captain James Ryan was a native of Virginia, but at an early age removed to South Carolina. He was one of the first settlers of Edgefield District—a pioneer in the wilderness—and was soon called into service as a soldier against the Cherokees. In the war of 1768 against that nation, he was appointed a Lieutenant in one of the companies and distinguished himself. He always volunteered in the most dangerous enterprises and was frequently engaged in hand to hand conflicts with the Indians. He was under Williamson, fighting against the Cherokees, when the Declaration of Independence was made in Charleston, August, 1776.

He took his stand upon the principles of that declaration, and never changed. He served as Captain under Le Roy Hammond, (Colonel) and was engaged in many bloody skirmishes of which there is no record. When the State was overrun in 1780, after the fall of Charleston, and was considered a conquered province, he, with many other true patriots, asked for his parole and took what is known as British protection. But when the British afterwards pronounced him a British subject, as a consequence of this act, and called upon him to bear arms against his countrymen, he refused, was arrested, and thrown into prison at Ninety-Six. From this place he was sent in irons with Captain James Butler, James Caldwell, Daniel Duff, and some others, to the great prison in Charleston, where he was confined in the same cells with all sorts and descriptions of evil doers—British culprits. The prison was crowded—the weather hot—the temper of the parties not very amiable, and they soon began to quarrel and fight. Captain Ryan afterwards related that the Americans were beating their opponents soundly when assistance was sent to them from without. Ryan and his Whig companions were then placed on board a prison ship, which has always been regarded as a brief epitome, or condensed edition of hell. From this ship some were delivered by death, some were exchanged, and some few escaped. Captain Ryan was one of

these, but for some time he was not able to get out of the city. At length one day he quarrelled with some soldiers in the street. After the soldiers left him and passed on, a lady who had been listening called Captain Ryan to her door. She, being a good Whig and wishing to assist him to escape, advised him to go to a sentinel on the lines and pretend that he was a rebel deserter—had been badly treated, and wished to enlist under some British officer whom he knew at Monck's Corner—an officer of reputation. Ryan at once assumed the character, and after a few visits to the sentinel he let him pass. Ryan did not go to Monck's Corner, nor did he return to Charleston, but made the best of his way to the home of Colonel Thomas Taylor, an old friend and schoolmate. Before he reached Granby at the Congaree he was joined by three others, brothers in misfortune. There was neither flat nor canoe in which they could cross, and two of the party could not swim. They made a raft, and placing upon it the two who could not swim, Ryan and the other swam and towed them over. Colonel Taylor, who had just returned from a scouting expedition, received Ryan with great kindness and loaned him a horse to help him on his way home. On the way, near the Edisto, he unexpectedly met three men whom he believed to be Tories. These men stopped him and asked him who he was. He gave the name of Rambo, a well-known Tory in the neighborhood; but Holley, one of the party, doubted the truth of what he said. They searched and found his commission. Holley immediately seized his gun to shoot him, but Ryan, with entire self-possession, asked him to wait a moment; and then appealed to his feelings as a Christian and a man against such doings. Holley yielded, but took him to a Tory camp not far off where he said he knew he would be put to death. The Captain of the party, who was an old man, would not permit them to kill him; but when Ryan left the camp, Holley and a few others followed him until out of sight of those at the camp, stripped off his coat, hat, and boots, took his horse and dismissed him barefooted. He 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, the Captain's wife, was there in great distress, who begged Ryan not to



## LE ROY HAMMOND.

Le Roy and Samuel Hammond, two of the most active and energetic Whigs during the Revolution in Edgefield District, were both born in Richmond County, Virginia. Le Roy, a sketch of whom we will give first, was the son of John Hammond, who had married Miss Dobbins. The year of his birth is not given, nor is any mention made of his early life, education, and training. He married a Miss Tyler, and left Virginia about the year 1765, with his wife and one child. He began business as a merchant in Augusta, which was a town at the time about thirty years old, and a good place of business. Mr. Hammond remained in Augusta two or three years, when he removed over to South Carolina, to a place called Richmond, where he continued business as a merchant, and also kept a public ferry across the Savannah River. From this place he removed his residence to Snow Hill in Edgefield District, where he engaged in the tobacco trade and did much to promote and improve the culture of that noxious weed in South Carolina. At his warehouse at Camelton, a short distance below his residence, the first year he only received twenty hogsheads of tobacco; the second year he received over one thousand. His business here was large and profitable.

Before the war he was a justice of the peace and captain of a militia company; and being a good surveyor, and a man of sound, practical sense and judgment, he had great influence. He was one of the first in Edgefield and, perhaps, in the State, to lay an embargo upon tea, by excluding it from use in his family on account of the arbitrary acts of the British Parliament. Tea had long been their favorite beverage.

The visit of Messrs. Drayton and Tennant to the up-country produced a profound sensation and tended to separate the people into two parties by causing them to declare themselves for or against the measures of the Revolutionary party. Browne, the Tory leader, became more openly hostile, and Drayton came from the Dutch Fork to see Hammond, and appealed to him for support, as his opinions were already well known. Tennant was then at Ninety-Six. To that place Hammond proceeded with Drayton to use his influence, which was great, in inducing the wavering and vacillating to sign the pledge of association.

Neighbor began to reproach neighbor, and the loyalists soon assumed a hostile attitude under the Cunninghams. They collected their forces at Ninety-Six, and Colonel Andrew Williamson, with about six hundred men, went to oppose them. Hammond was an officer under Williamson. In a few days a truce was made between the parties for twenty days, and the men disbanded and went home. In Williamson's expedition against the Cherokees in 1776, Le Roy Hammond played a very distinguished part. In fact, the success of the expedition was greatly due to him. When Williamson's army was ambuscaded and the prospect looked very gloomy—when Williamson's horse was killed under him—when Hammond's friend, Mr. Francis Salvador, of whom I shall have more to say after awhile, was killed and scalped by his side—when everything around was in the utmost confusion and victory seemed doubtful, it was then that Le Roy Hammond, with only twenty men of his own company, charged upon the Indians concealed in the thicket—charged with fixed bayonet—and when they broke from their cover and fled, he poured upon them such a deadly fire that they could not rally. Thus by the gallant conduct of Hammond the army was saved. And again, soon afterwards it was determined to cross the Savannah River and invade the Indian Nation. The officer who was ordered to lead the advance hesitated and evaded the duty. The men themselves shrank from the advance. Hammond volunteered to lead, and the movement was executed with gallantry and success. Hammond received promotion.

So complete was the defeat of the Cherokees that they were never afterwards troublesome. Many of them went down to Florida and became pensioners of the British, as their crops and all means of subsistence were almost entirely destroyed in this campaign.

In June, 1778, Colonel Hammond, with J. L. Gervais and George Galphin, was appointed by the Governor and Council, Commissioners to conciliate the Indian Nations. And in December, 1778, he was sent with George Galphin and Daniel McMurphy, by the Continental Congress, as Commissioners to the Upper and Lower Creeks, met them, had a friendly talk, and made peaceful arrangements with the young Tallassee King and other great men amongst the Creeks. These



arrangements and treaties were preserved by Henry Laurens, President of the Continental Congress.

In 1779, Colonel Hammond was with his regiment and fought at the battle of Stono. In 1780, he co-operated with Clarke, and other Whigs, against the Tories and Indians in Georgia. In 1781, he was very active during the siege of Augusta; he with the infantry and Samuel Hammond with the cavalry. During this siege the war waged was one of the greatest barbarity. The Tory, Browne, who commanded at Augusta, with his Indian allies put to death the prisoners taken with savage ferocity. And the Whig militia, it is altogether probable, were sometimes not much better. Captain William Martin, of the artillery, the oldest of seven brave brothers, was killed here. More will be said about these Martin brothers after awhile. Pickens, Clarke, Harden, and the two Hammonds pushed the siege with great vigor. After the capture of Granby, Lee joined them with his legion, and Browne soon afterwards surrendered. Pickens, Le Roy and Samuel Hammond then proceeded to Ninety Six to assist General Greene. When the siege of Ninety-Six was raised, the Hammonds were sent westwardly and northwestwardly to protect Greene on his retreat, by preventing annoyance from the Tories. From the mountains they were instructed to proceed eastwardly to the Congaree. Proceeding eastwardly they fell in with the rear of the British army under Colonel Cruger retreating from Ninety-six to Orangeburg, and captured some baggage and made several prisoners. Here Le Roy returned home; but he had scarcely reached his home when he was called out to aid General Greene in the battle of Eutaw. Near Granby he was met by a messenger from General Rutledge, at Camden, who required his presence there immediately. While he was at Camden the battle of Eutaw was fought, in which Colonel Samuel Hammond distinguished himself. From this period until the close of the war, he was engaged in scouting, but met no more British troops in regular battle array.

After the war he resumed business as a merchant in partnership with John Lewis Gervais, of Charleston, S. C. He was a member of the Legislature for many years, sometimes as Representative and sometimes as Senator. Of his character as a

soldier, as a legislator, as a citizen, as a neighbor, as a man, too much cannot be said in his praise. He was an Episcopalian in religion by education and practice. He died at his home in Edgefield, leaving only one descendant, a namesake, Le Roy Hammond. He also left but one son, Andrew Hammond. Some descendants of Colonel Le Roy Hammond are now living in Edgefield County. I hope they are as honorable, as brave, as true to the dictates of honor as ever their illustrious ancestor was.

### SAMUEL HAMMOND.

There is not a name in Edgefield, nor in the state, that deserves to be remembered with more admiration and love for his heroic devotion to the cause of Independence than that of Samuel Hammond. He was born on the 21st of September, 1757, in Richmond County, Farnham's Parish, Virginia. He began his career of public service at an early age. In an expedition ordered out by Governor Dunmore against the Western Indians, he was a volunteer, and was in the desperate battle at the mouth of the Great Kenhawa River, fought by General Andrew Lewis, October 10th, 1774. When the troubles with the mother country began, he took the side of Independence—was made captain of a company of volunteers and was engaged in a battle at Great Bridge, near Norfolk, under Colonel Woodford, December, 1775. He also served in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, with the Virginia troops, under Colonel Mathews, General Maxwell and others. In 1776 he volunteered as aid to General Hand and with him went to Pittsburg. In January, 1779, he removed with his father's family to Edgefield District, and at once joined the army under General Lincoln, under orders of General McIntosh, who had superseded General Hand in Pennsylvania. The Virginia troops were about to return home as their eighteen months' term had expired; but Hammond remained with General Lincoln, as captain, that having been his rank in Virginia as General Hand's aid. On the second of February he was ordered by General Williamson to raise a company of mounted volunteers to be attached to Le Roy Hammond's regiment. He did so, and on the 3d of March, 1779, he was commissioned by Governor Rutledge captain of company, and continued in